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STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF WEXFORD,

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND BY ORDER OF

THE DUBLIN SOCIETY,

BY

ROBERT FRASER, Esq.

AUTHOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL REPORTS OF THE COUNTIES
OF CORNWALL, DEVON, AND WICKLOW.

*Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agricul-
tura melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius, nihil homine libero
dignius.*

Cic. de offic. 1. c. 42.

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STATISTICAL SURVEY
TO THE READER.

COUNTY OF WEXFORD
This REPORT is at present printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and husbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.

The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments; they have only published it, as the Report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely, and without reserve.

It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.



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At page 71, line 4 from top. For *first* read *second*.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

PART I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

SECT. 1. *Situation and Extent.*

THE county of Wexford is situated in the province of Leinster, and is the south-eastern division of that province, and consequently of Ireland; forming the extreme angle of the island, opposite to the southern part of the principality of Wales, from which it is separated, on the east, by St. George's channel.

On the south, also, it is bounded by the sea or part of the Atlantic ocean, stretching from the entrance of St. George's channel to the spacious bay, which forms the harbour of Waterford, by

which bay or harbour, and the navigable river Barrow, and part of the Suir, it is bounded on the west. Being thus surrounded on the east and south by the sea, and on the west by the bay or harbour of Waterford, and the rivers Suir and Barrow, this county becomes almost a peninsula, separated by these deep rivers from the counties of Waterford and Kilkenny, and, on the north and north-east, it is separated from the counties of Carlow and Wicklow by formidable ranges of stupendous mountains, through which there are only two passes, one by the sea side at Arklow, another by Schollough-gap, to the county of Carlow.

These mountains on the side of the county of Wicklow extend from Slyeeve-Bwee, on the borders of that county, which is a beautiful conical hill, covered with verdure; the ridge continuing to the valley, through which the river Slaney flows, and which divides this range from one of far greater extent and magnitude. This other range, which divides the county of Wexford from the county of Carlow, is composed of the high mountains of Mount-Leinster and Black stairs; three remarkable pointed summits of which are distinguished by the name of, The Leaps of Ossian's greyhounds. Thus situated, adjacent to the principality of Wales, and nearly opposite to the mouth of Bristol channel, the county of Wexford presented great advantages to
the

the English invaders of Ireland in the reign of Henry II., and formed the seat of the first English colonists, who established themselves in Ireland, and who, from the natural strength of this district, and its being so much separated from the rest of Ireland, have maintained themselves more unmixed with the aborigines, than in any other district in the south and west of this island.

The county of Wexford extends 38 miles in length, and 24 miles in breadth; it contains 315,396 plantation acres, or 397,525 English statute acres. Of this extent, however, all is not equally advantageous in point of fertility, or the proximity of the means of increasing that fertility; the maritime districts having much the advantage, in both respects, of those which are situated more to the interior. On the south, particularly, there is an extensive district, separated from the rest of the county by a chain of mountains, called the mountains of Forth, which district is named the baronies of Forth and Bargie, and is much superior in point of fertility, abundance of marle, and other manure, to the other parts of the county. The whole of the county, except this district, is much studded with single mountains, some of them of considerable height, all of them composed of secondary strata, chiefly schistose argillite; the mountain of Forth consists of hornstone.

SECT. 2. *Divisions.*

THE county of Wexford is divided into eight baronies, viz. Gorey, Ballagheen, Scarewalsh, Bantry, Shelburne, Shelmaliere, Bargie, and Forth. It contains 142 parishes, and two boroughs, Wexford and New Ross, sending each one member to the House of Commons in the Imperial parliament; during the Irish parliament it sent sixteen members.

With regard to the political divisions into baronies, and the ecclesiastical division into parishes, no important deduction arises respecting the relative improvement of these nominal divisions of territory. Chance, or circumstances long forgotten, often have given rise to the bounds of those divisions: other considerations must be referred to, in considering the natural geography of a country, in order to found thereon an investigation respecting its present state of improvement, and the means of its future advancement.

In this respect the county of Wexford affords some strong characters of distinction, with regard to its capability of improvement.

In the first place, the whole of its eastern and southern maritime frontier presents a district of great extent, in many parts consisting of a deep alluvial

alluvial soil well adapted for tillage, abounding in various species of marle, calcareous sand, and, in some situations, limestone; all of which, together with the sea weeds thrown upon the coast, are found to afford ample returns for the industry of man, directed even as it is by very little skill, although that skill is exercised with incredible industry, particularly in the southern and south-eastern part of this district.

In the more internal parts of the county the river Slaney traversing the country in a direction from north-west to south-east, marks out a district of great beauty and fertility on both sides of its verdant banks. Eastward from this river, an extensive district stretches to the sea-coast, abounding in marle, and productive in grain. This district includes the barony of Ballagheen, Gorey, and part of Scarewalsh; it is, in a part of the north, low and flat; towards the south, however, it rises into many gently swelling hills with some beautiful vales. The whole of the rocks are secondary strata, and the low and flat grounds alluvial.

This district forms about one sixth part of the county, and we shall name it the *Eastern district*.

We have already mentioned the southern district separated by the chain of mountainous ground, called the mountain of Forth, from the rest of this county.

This

This includes the baronies of Forth and Bargie, commonly called the English baronies.

This district, including both baronies, forms also about one sixth part of the county of Wexford, viz. fifty thousand plantation acres, or about 63,177 English statute acres, and may be named the southern or English district.

The remaining part of the county, consisting of Shelburne, Bantry, and part of Scarewalsh, is not so favourably circumstanced, containing little marle, but it has the advantage of being able to procure limestone from the counties of Kilkenny and Carlow, and it contains abundance of turf, in which the southern and eastern districts are deficient. A very rich marle is also found in the bed of the river Suir and Barrow, together with abundance of calcareous or shell-sand near Duncannon Fort. The soil is clayey loam, and gravelly, but, when properly under-drained and manured with lime, or river marle and sand, produces excellent crops. Some districts, as the Hook, are in a high state of cultivation.

All the farmers, who have leases, exhibit great proofs of industry, and are now generally introducing red clover as a green crop, although they have not gone into turnips, rape, or vetches, except in a few instances, where such success has followed as is likely to make them generally adopted.

SECT. 3. *Climate.*

THE whole extent of Ireland in a meridian line being not above four degrees of latitude, the difference of climate cannot, from any great difference of temperature, sensibly affect the operations of agriculture in the southern parts more than in the northern. Any difference must be occasioned, where it subsists, chiefly by the elevation of the land, and its situation with respect to the ocean.

Thus, therefore, in the county of Wexford, particularly in the eastern and southern districts, lying quite open to the sea, the temperature is milder than that of the adjoining counties of Carlow and Kilkenny. In these districts snow seldom lies, and in winter it is found that the ground may be ploughed, and the fields are in some degree verdant, while the lands ten miles from the sea are bound with frost, and the elevated parts white with snow.

The southern district of the county of Wexford, lying low and entirely open to the Atlantic, is subject to storms in the spring and autumn, and to heavy rains in winter. To remedy this in some measure, their enclosures are generally small, and the ridges, particularly for their winter crops of wheat and beans, formed high and round, to prevent the soil from being washed away by the violence of the rain and storms

storms, which are more frequent in autumn and winter than in the spring months.

In comparison with the adjacent parts of Wales, as far as we had occasion to observe, the harvest in the southern parts of the county of Wexford is full as early, and rather earlier.

In the autumn of 1796, I found that the harvest in the county of Wexford was finished before that of the neighbourhood of Haverford-west and Caermarthen, in South Wales, and even of Barnstaple in the north of the county of Devon. In the county of Wexford the harvest is always earlier in a district, called the Hook, than in other parts of the county, which is a peninsula entirely open to the ocean, and very little elevated above it. The whole of this peninsula, which is about five miles in length and a mile broad, is situated on the bay forming the harbour of Waterford; the subsoil of compact limestone, with a very thin layer of earth on its surface. It produces grasses of wonderful luxuriance, and both wheat and barley of superior excellence. Samples, which we have seen of both, do not appear to us inferior to those of Bedfordshire, with which it is situated nearly in the same latitude.

From an opportunity of nearly ten years attention to the climate of this county and other parts of Ireland, the same observation attaches itself to the greatest part of the island, nor have we been able to find

find that there is such an excess of moisture or want of heat, as to render it unfavourable to the ripening the seeds of corn, when sown on land properly prepared by good tillage, and well manured. In very moist seasons no doubt the leaf-buds, as has been observed by Dr. Darwin, of grass and corn as well as of trees and perennial vegetables grow too luxuriantly, and the flowers, and consequently fruits and seeds are later, and contain more aqueous and less mucilaginous and saccharine matter.

On the contrary in dry seasons the leaf-buds are less vigorous, and therefore in less quantity, as to the crops of hay, and the quantity of straw ; but the fruits and seeds ripen earlier, and are of more grateful flavour and more nutritious.

The excess of heat is, however, seldom such in this climate as to be much injurious to vegetation. Last year, 1803, there was much heat and a long continuance of drought, so that many of the springs dried up, and even some of the rivulets in different parts of this county. The crops of grass, and particularly of hay, were very deficient, the straw also short, but the crops of corn uncommonly productive, so that in many parts of the baronies of Forth and Bargie the barley produced fifteen and twenty barrels to the Irish acre, whereas in 1802, which was a wet summer, the same lands did not produce above twelve and fifteen barrels. In the harvest of that year,

however, I observed that a great part of the deficiency in produce might be ascribed to the crops being very much choaked up with weeds; and in those parts of the barony, as in the parish of Carran, where the farmers take great care to keep their crops free from weeds, their produce was very little inferior to the produce of the dry season of last year, although the bulk of the corn in the rainy year was much greater.

The climate and temperature of the soil may be greatly improved in this county by draining and planting. By draining the land of the stagnant surface water, great advantages would arise to the health of the inhabitants as well as the soil thereby be improved. In the lower parts of the baronies of Forth and Bargie, the ague prevails very much in the spring months, and there are in the places, where it most prevails, many pools of water, which dry up in summer and might be easily drained; and we are led to apprehend that it is owing to these pools, that the inhabitants are afflicted with these intermittents, from our finding that in the Carse of Gowrie in Perthshire, about thirty years ago, when it contained a great number of similar pools, the ague was very frequent, and, since they have been drained, this disease has wholly disappeared. Planting large belts of trees on the tops and declivities of the rising grounds would afford great shelter to the grass and

corn

corn as well as to the cattle, the good effects of which appear, wherever this mode has been adopted ; and throughout the whole of this county trees flourish well, where they are planted in belts of sufficient breadth, on which we shall have occasion to make some farther remarks.

SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

The soil, generally speaking, of the county of Wexford cannot boast of the superior degree of fertility, which is found in many other districts in Ireland, being mostly of a cold clayey nature, without containing those substrata of limestone and limestone-gravel so frequent in the midland districts of Ireland.

Neither is it naturally so productive in grass as the adjacent maritime county of Waterford. This district is, however, very remarkable for tillage, in which the inhabitants exercise great industry and perseverance, particularly in the southern and eastern districts.

Except upon the northern confines of the county there are no very high nor extensive ridges of mountains, but the surface is diversified with many single hills of considerable height, and, in the south, the mountain of Forth forms a low ridge of five or six

miles in extent. The general surface between those hills does not extend into large plains.

The land declines from the primitive mountains on the north of the county towards the sea, the retreating waters having left it in unequal elevations, and where the depositions of alluvial substances are considerable, towards the south and south east, the surface is beautifully waving and downy, the whole affording great advantages for draining the lands and *aerating* the crops of grain, and therefore is much more adapted to agriculture than low and extensive plains. The soil is of course stony and gravelly near the mountains, becoming more loamy as the depositions subsided towards the sea. In the internal district among the single hills we have mentioned, are considerable tracts of peaty soil formed from the deposition of vegetable matter arrested in its progress to the sea.

A considerable stratum of clayey soil runs through the barony of Shelburne from S. E. to N. W. but not so adhesive as what in England is denominated stiff clay; it is however cold and naturally unfertile, and perhaps the worst soil in the county. The soil in general is diversified in a great degree, even in the same farm, and often in the same field.

MINERALS.

If under this article we are only to comprehend the more valuable mineral bodies such as metallic substances, the enumeration of such, as have been found in this division of Ireland, is not very extensive or abundant.

There is an ancient working of a mine to be seen on the banks of the river Bannow near Barrastown, and which was renewed about thirty or forty years ago by Mr. Ogle, on whose property these workings appeared.

It did not turn out to any profit. I have however, amongst the deads thrown out, found some galena adhering to quartz and rhomboidal iron-stone, and I should apprehend it would be worth while to clear the old works, which could be done at a small expence, and examine the veins, from which these had been broken, with some attention.

About six miles from this place on the sea shore, I found also some nodules of close-grained galena, which had been evidently washed out of the bank, which formed the sea shore, and which consisted of indurated clay and marle.

A farmer in the neighbourhood informed me, that it was no uncommon thing to find very large pieces of this ore on the shore after storms, which generally
broke

broke down some part of this bank. This I should also think worth pursuing so far as to examine the rocks, or, as it is called by miners, the fast ground, which might be done by shoding at no great expence.

I also found at a place called Kirlogue, near Wexford, a small vein of copper ore, of the species of malachite or carbonated green copper ore, specimens of which I sent to the Dublin Society repository, with the analysis I made of this ore.

Within these few years, also a vein of galena has been found in the parish of Killan, near Enniscorthy, which we are informed has produced a considerable quantity of lead.

With regard to the other mineralogical objects in this county of much value, they consist chiefly in the different species of marles and some limestone found in various parts, and in the calcareous sand found near the sea shore, and the calcareous sediment in the beds of the rivers; these will be more particularly noticed in describing their application to the purposes of agriculture.

But, although metallic veins of ore have not hitherto been discovered to any great extent, it may not be unworthy to enquire, whether there is any such probability of the existence of such veins, that might render a diligent search for these treasures

sures an object deserving attention and investigation.

Ireland has been said to be formed of one immense rock or bed of granite, which is seen bursting out in some of the high and primitive mountains. Of this primitive granite some of the central mountains of the adjacent county of Wicklow seem to be formed, and also the ridge of mountains separating the county of Wexford from the county of Carlow. Immediately southward from these mountains the granite disappears, and the rocks incumbent on it are formed of schistose argillite, but not in continued strata, being rather much broken and interrupted; every where also on the declivity of these detached rocky hills and mountains, and in the lower grounds, are to be seen large fragments of granite, as if broken off from the higher mountains of the same species at some former period; and, at the south-east point of this district, called Carnsore-point, the compact primitive granite is found extending itself into the sea. In the western districts, these rocks of schistose argillite are found to alternate with extended masses of siliceous puddingstone, some of which are sufficiently compact to be formed into millstones, particularly towards Ballyhask, and on the sea coast near Templetown, and the district called the Hook. In various situations there is found slate of some value,

value, but not in great abundance, except near Newton-Barry on the borders, and chiefly *posited* in the county of Carlow.

On a careful review of the whole of the rocky strata in this county, it appears too much broken and shattered to expect any great extent of valuable metallic veins.

Since writing the above, I have seen a manuscript in the archiepiscopal library at Lambeth, which relates that, during the time the Danes or Ostmen possessed the sea coasts of this county, there was such abundance of silver found here, that a mint was erected, and silver coins formed to a considerable amount. This no doubt was at a place, which is called to this day Clonmines, opposite to the place, where I found the galena above mentioned, which forms an additional argument for renewing the working of that mine.

However, from the situation of this district in regard to the primitive mountains, one would, from the analogy to what takes place in Great Britain, be inclined to expect the appearance of that very valuable mineral, of so much use in the various purposes of life, that is, coal. Although however we found, that there existed a strong prepossession in favour of this mineral being situated in various parts of the district, we did not find any old workings of coal mines, only some obscure traditions of coals having
been

been found in small quantities. We are far from considering it wholly undeserving attention, to try for coals in this county; and the situations we consider most favourable for those trials, are in the lands lying between the mountain of Forth and Mount-Leinster, or on the southern declivity of the mountain of Forth, between the hornstone and the vein of limestone, that runs from Kirlsgue to the barony of Bargie.

Another and a stronger argument, perhaps, to expect coals in this county arises from the opposite country in Wales containing coal, and of the same kind that is found in the county of Kilkenny; which is obviously the same strata as that in Wales, and which, at great depths, is likely to be found also in the county of Wexford. In the north of Ireland, the Scotch coal strata are found in the counties of Antrim, and Leitrim, and most likely exist in all the intermediate districts, and beyond Leitrim to the Western Ocean. The Welsh or blind coal is also found in Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, and Cork.

In several situations both to the north and south of this mountain, we should have been glad to have had it in our power to examine the strata of this county. This could not be effected without sinking pits, so as to remove the incumbent earth; which would have been attended with considerable expence, and have occupied much time and atten-

tion. If the plan proposed by Mr. Kirwan had been adopted, of having a set of mining augers in each county, trials of this kind might be made without any extraordinary expence; and if ever a plan of this kind should be adopted, I beg leave to suggest, that it would be worth while to try the strata of this county, proceeding from the mountain of Forth, in a north-east direction, to the bounds of Mount-Leinster, and on the south of the mountain of Forth, in a south-west direction, to Duncormack and Cullenstown. It is not of any great importance, from what part of the north or south side of the mountain the trials should be begun; that will easily be determined by those acquainted with the art of searching for coals: and to make these or any other trials, for examining the mineral strata of the country, without the superintendence of persons skilled in the art, would be absurd. In many operations respecting mining, the erection of harbours, the formation of inland navigations, carried on in this part of the United kingdom, and indeed in Great Britain, it is astonishing how many failures have arisen from the ill-judged parsimony, in neglecting to employ men of real science and experience in the direction of these operations; instead of which, men without knowledge or responsibility of character, or any pretensions, are greedily employed, because they offer their own time at an easy expence, and hold out a plausible

plausible plan to their employers, flattering their vanity by pretending to submit to their judgment on a subject, respecting which they must be totally ignorant.

A little left-handed wisdom of this kind, with the alertness of throwing in a job or two for the leading men in the concern, is an admirable recipe for attaining engagements on too many occasions, where the public interests of the state, and that of individuals forming large companies, are concerned. Whereas, if persons desirous of engaging in undertakings of this nature were to search with some care, people might be found in England, of adequate skill and undoubted integrity, to direct whatever operations might be wanted, so as to attain with every confidence the end proposed, provided *liberal encouragement* were held out to them.

A complete mineralogical survey of Ireland would be of great national importance, and be a most desirable acquisition to that branch of science: and it is hoped that, with the return of quiet times, this important investigation will be taken up with spirit and determination.

SECT. 6. *Water.*

Under this article, regarding the county of Wexford as a maritime district, surrounded on three sides by the sea, and by large navigable rivers, it seems necessary, both to understand properly its present state, and its means of being rendered a greater source of wealth and force to the empire, to examine, in the first place, the peculiar circumstances respecting those seas and rivers, by which it is so surrounded.

The Sea or Ocean, and its advantages for forming fishing Towns and Harbours.

The advantages possessed by a country, from the neighbourhood of the sea, are of great importance. It presents to its inhabitants a natural navigable canal, formed and maintained without expence, and affording not only a communication through the maritime line of the district, but enabling them with ease to extend their activity to every quarter of the globe.

We have seen an individual residing on the banks of the river, which washes the western boundary of this county, building a ship by his own workmen, rigging the vessel by his own manufacture, and navigating her by his own servants; freighted with the
produce

produce of the neighbouring lands and ocean for every part of Europe. What has been done by one individual may be done by many, were there encouragement for individuals so to exert themselves.

Thomas Owen, the name of this respectable member of the community, was induced by the liberal encouragement of Cornelius Bolton, Esq. of Faithlegg, in the county of Waterford, to settle, about 20 years ago, on his estate on the river Suir, at Checkpoint, opposite the western shore of this county, at which place Mr. Bolton laid the foundation of a town, to which he has given the name of Bolton.

Thomas Owen employs constantly near two hundred people, in making ropes, canvas, &c. for the use of shipping, and of the country farmers. He employs many individuals in the county of Wexford, in spinning yarn for canvas, and has introduced a valuable manufactory, that might be greatly increased, if similar establishments were formed along the extended coast of this district, where also the inhabitants would, by being nearer the numerous fishing grounds, with which the seas adjacent abound, be enabled to acquire not only subsistence, but wealth, by means of the watery plain, with which they are surrounded.

At present, along the whole of the maritime coast of the county of Wexford, from what is called the great island, opposite to the village of Bolton, to Ballyhack

Ballyhack and Duncannon, two villages on the bay, forming the harbour of Waterford, a very considerable number of people are constantly employed in the fishing business solely. On the southern and eastern coasts there are numerous assemblages of people at every creek, where there is shelter for a boat, who derive their subsistence partly from little holdings of land, but chiefly from the sea; and all, that is wanted to raise these poor people to prosperity and wealth, is to form small harbours to shelter their boats, and afford them the means of a safe retreat in the event of sudden storms.

In the course of the investigations we have had opportunity of making, respecting the Nymph-bank fishery, we have discovered, that the most certain and abundant fishing ground is to be found adjacent to the islands of the Saltees, situated on the southern part of the coast of this county; but, from the want of a harbour to run to, this fishery cannot be followed by native fishermen in their open boats, neither from the adjacent coast, nor from the harbour of Waterford.

Two very small harbours have indeed been formed, one at Fethard, and another at a place, called Cross Faranogue, in the bay of Ballyteigue; this last being by much the best adapted to carry on the fishing. It has been erected by the fishermen themselves, with a small subscription from the gentlemen and principal farmers in the neighbourhood.

Inadequate

Inadequate as this little harbour is, yet it has enabled the fishermen to extend the size and number of their boats, from five and six, to twelve and fifteen tons, of which there are now about twenty chiefly employed in catching lobsters, which the larger boats carry to the Dublin market. This fishery is carried on in summer, in which season they also take considerable quantities of cod and ling, mullet, gurnet, and other small fish. The winter fishery, which would afford them much employment, both in pursuit of the cod fishery, and of the herring fishery, they are unable to follow, from the want of a harbour sufficient to shelter their boats.

We have not seen any situation on this coast, where a little money could be of so much importance in extending the fisheries, as the formation of a harbour at or near this place. It would not only be of great advantage to the fishermen adjacent, but to those from the harbour of Waterford and other parts of the coast resorting to this fishing ground.

The land adjacent to this place belongs to a minor, the son of the late Mr. Bruen, a gentleman, who has left great possessions to his family; nor could there hardly be any greater permanent improvement made on this part of his estate, than to erect a sufficient harbour at this place, and to lay out a village on a liberal plan. The present tenant,

Mrs.

Mrs. Colclough, with a liberality that does her great honour, assured me that she would not suffer any interest she has in these lands, to obstruct so beneficial an object for the inhabitants and the community, and would cheerfully join in granting every possible accommodation to the formation of such an establishment.

It is not only at this part of the coast, where a harbour, being formed, would afford additional sources of employment to the people, but there are several others, of which, at present, I shall only notice two. One is near Carnsore-point, and the church town of the parish of Carn, a parish which we shall have occasion particularly to notice, for the exemplary industry of its inhabitants, both as farmers and fishermen. The other is at St. Helens, near Greenore-point, where an admirable harbour might be formed, with a bason, which, by a convenient back-water, might be formed, so as to be a place of shelter for coasting and other vessels of moderate burthen. We have too much reason, however, to apprehend that, important as these improvements would eventually be, to the enabling the inhabitants to avail themselves of the advantages presented to them by nature, unless the object is taken up by the government of the country, and carried into effect by the aid of public money, these favourable situations for establishing the means of reaping the harvest
of

of the watery deep will remain neglected for ages to come, as they have been for ages past.

Government has acceded to the propriety of laying out public money, for the purpose of forming inland navigations, to enable the inhabitants of the internal parts of the British islands to form a communication with the sea-coasts in situations, where capital is not to be had for these desirable purposes. In Ireland, large sums of money have been appropriated to this object.

But, if it is consistent with wise policy to expend the public money for the formation of internal navigations, surely it is equally consistent with wise policy to place the inhabitants on the maritime coasts in such circumstances, as to enable them to avail themselves of the advantages presented to them by the navigation, held out to them by nature, and which also offers to them new sources of subsistence and of wealth.

But independent of the advantages, which the formation of harbours on this southern coast of the county of Wexford would afford to the adjacent inhabitants, such harbours would be of the greatest importance, in affording the means of assisting vessels in distress, and saving the lives of many unhappy mariners from the frequent shipwrecks, that happen on this coast, particularly if two or three life boats were stationed at these proposed harbours. And, if

with these proposed improvements were added a proper distinguishing light, erected on the most advantageous situation on these coasts, great distress and damage would be prevented, by which at present vast losses are sustained by the channel trade.

Distinguishing Light proposed to be erected on the great Island of the Saltees.

The sea, adjacent to the southern coast of Wexford, is full of rocks and shallows, both near and at some distance from the islands of the Saltees. These islands consist of the greater and lesser island of the Saltees, both of them containing high rocky land covered with grass. The larger, about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, the lesser, about half a mile in circumference. From the lesser island to the shore a ridge of rocks stretches the whole, except a very narrow channel between this ridge and the lesser island. The space between the two islands is also rocky and shallow, with only a narrow sound difficult to find without an experienced pilot.

The islands and rocky shallows stretch into the sea, nearly two leagues from the main land, and form one side of a large and deeply indented bay, which is bounded by the lands of Ballyteigue, Bannow,
now,

now, and Tintern, with the long and narrow peninsula called the Hook.

This extensive bay, enclosed on all sides by rocks and dangerous shallows, presents a wide opening mouth of fifteen miles, extending from the light on the tower of Hook to the Saltees, presenting a most dangerous and deceptive attraction to the weary and distressed mariner, ignorant of his course on this fatal coast.

Once embayed, he has little or no chance of safety. It is to him truly the Scylla or Charibdis, and presents only the dismal alternative of being driven in pieces on the islands of the Saltees, and the rocky points around them, or of being wrecked on the low-lying shallows in the interior of the bay.

There has been no less than eleven vessels of large burthen known * to have been wrecked on this coast during last winter, five of which took place on this part of the coast from the vessels being embayed in the manner we have described.

All of these shipwrecks would, in all probability, have been prevented, if a distinguishing light had been erected on the greatest island of the Saltees, which, by warning them to stand out to sea, would have prevented them falling victims on this rocky coast.

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* And many more, it is feared, were wrecked, from the spars and masts driven ashore, and numbers of dead bodies.

But it is not only from the dismal effect of the very tempestuous weather, which took place last winter, that we think it our duty to press this subject on the attention of government and the public. It is but a few years back, when the captain of a West-India packet mistook the tower of Hook light for the Eddystone light-house off Plymouth Sound, and in running, as he thought for Plymouth, was brought up by the coast of Wexford. A similar mistake happened lately by a homeward-bound West-Indiaman, and a cargo of the value of £.120,000 was with difficulty saved by some fishermen. Every winter numbers of vessels are wrecked, from the uncertainty of their course, and from want of a light on this coast. For it is not only this bay which we have described, that presents a fatal snare to the distressed mariner, but there are a great number of rocks and shoals at some distance from these islands, and along the other parts of the southern coast of Wexford, from thence to Tusker, which is a formidable rock in the mouth of the channel, at some distance from Greenore-point, on the south-east of the county.

Notwithstanding the well known danger of this part of the Irish coast, notwithstanding the numerous wrecks, which happen thereon every winter, there is no light on the whole coast, to enable vessels to shun the

the danger, from the tower of Hook light to that of Wicklow head.

Nor is this deficiency complained of by individuals only, but we find, by the preamble to the act of the Irish parliament respecting light houses, in the 36th of the King, chap. 18. it expressly stated, that “the channel trade between Great Britain and Ireland is subject to frequent losses, from the want of a light on the coast of Wexford, and the commissioners of his Majesty’s revenue are empowered by said act to erect additional light-houses, specifying particularly *and on that coast.*”

It is not easy to form any conjecture of the reason the Board of revenue have had for neglecting this recommendation contained in the above act of parliament, for remedying what is truly called in the said act, “this notorious deficiency,” and we therefore think it our duty to call on that board, and the government of the country, to adopt active measures for remedying this evil.

In order to explain the necessity of attending to this object more fully, we beg to state, that in sailing up the British channel no such deficiency is found; you will there rise alternately one and two lights, and, in order to form a distinguishing light, three lights in the form of a triangle are placed on a rocky island, called the Caskets, on the coast of France, by which means

means no mistake can possibly happen in finding the course to that channel.

Whereas in St. George's channel, which on the whole is much narrower, there is no such arrangement of lights formed; a single light placed in one situation, another in another, two lights here and two there, without any regard to distinguishing them, so that the most correct navigator, that ever sailed, may perhaps, after a three months passage in crossing the Atlantic ocean, and not able for several days to get an observation of the sun, mistake one for the other, and the consequence prove fatal.

The single light of the tower of Hook is, every winter, in many instances mistaken for the Eddystone light-house; and running as they think for Plymouth sound, they get embayed in the bay we have above described, between the islands of the Saltees and the coast of Wexford.

To render the uncertainty of these lights more intelligible, it is to be observed, that the distance from the single light on the tower of Hook, and the single light on the Smalls, is so little as to occasion great doubt and uncertainty. The distance between the two lights on St. Anne's, entering Milford haven, and the two lights on Wicklow head is but little also, and liable also to perpetual uncertainty in distressing circumstances, whereas the whole of the southern
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and eastern coast of the county of Wexford, and a great part of the county of Wicklow, from the tower of Hook to Wicklow head, including a line of the most dangerous coast in the British islands of near seventy miles, without a single harbour or place of shelter, is left destitute of the means of distinguishing a ship's course with any certainty.

In the opinion of many intelligent seafaring men, all this dreadful uncertainty would be completely prevented, by erecting three lights on the island of the Saltees, in the form of a right line, so as completely to distinguish them from the other lights we have mentioned; and by erecting a wall in the shape of a half-moon battery, so as to eclipse the southermost, when the vessels approached near the foul ground at a distance from the Saltees, and thereby warn them to heave about.

Such a light would form a complete key to St. George's Channel, and enable the distressed mariner to shape his course, without any doubt or hesitation, through St. George's Channel, or if, thwarted by contrary winds, to either Milford or the port of Waterford, to refresh a wearied crew, or to refit a crazy bark; and would guide the ship clear of the bay we have so often mentioned, and of the foul ground lying at some distance from the islands of the Saltees; which dangerous rocky ground, situated to the south-west and to the east of the Saltees, is covered

at high-water, but is dry at low-water, and on which seldom a season happens that vessels are not wrecked, and the mariners sometimes saved; but many others, it is apprehended, are lost, without a soul being spared to announce the fatal tale.

We have understood that some are of opinion, that instead of at the Saltees, it would be a greater advantage to the trade navigating those seas, that a light should be erected on the rock Tusker; and it is therefore necessary to state the reasons, which appear to us to give a decided preference to the Saltees.

In the first place, the rock Tusker is very difficult of access, and to erect a light on this rock would be tedious and very expensive.

In the next place, there could only be one light erected on it; which, to be a distinguishing light, must be copied after the light upon Scilly, which is a light of mirrors and reflectors, fixed upon a frame perpendicular to the horizon, on a shaft united with a machine below, that turns the whole round every two minutes; by which means this light, which appears in the horizon like a star of the sixth magnitude, is alternately eclipsed and visible for the duration of one minute or sixty seconds.

An insuperable objection appears to the forming a light in the first place on Tusker, even were it practicable at a moderate expence, arising from the
low

low situation of that rock, as it could not be raised to such a height as to enable vessels to clear the Saltees, and the foul ground adjacent thereto; whereas the light, proposed to be formed on the great island of the Saltees, could be kept fully in view, so as to form a communication with the other lights, and be a sufficient guide to avoid Tusker, either to vessels outward or homeward bound.

For, in coming down channel, the outward bound ships have every advantage to attend them; clean out of dock, well manned, tackled, and apparelled, with a fair wind, they can with every confidence shape their course, and in little time clear the narrows of the Channel. If taken abaft with contrary winds, there is a probability of getting a fresh departure every day, one side of the Channel or the other. The benefit of the good light on Howth, which is situated on elevated ground, and seen at a great distance, both athwart the Channel, and to carry the vessel to Wicklow light: from thence, in dark weather, no better guide by day than the breakers on the sand-banks, from Dublin Bay to Tusker; by night, to be careful of the lead, until the light proposed to be erected on the Saltees appears; which being kept west by north by the compass would carry the vessel compleatly clear of Tusker, and all the foul ground on these coasts, until she comes to the Saltees, the foul ground to east and

south of which she would avoid, by being warned to heave about by the eclipsing of one of the lights, by the contrivance of the wall in the form of a half-moon battery above mentioned.

But it is not to those vessels alone, so happily circumstanced, that this light proposes those advantages. Every one will agree, that it is the helpless wreck that deserves our first attention. The foul-bottomed, homeward bound vessel from a foreign voyage, after encountering various storms in crossing the western ocean, is become crippled in her masts, sails, and rigging; her crews, perhaps, coming from a warm to a cold climate; not a sight of land, perhaps, for two or three months; many days of thick weather, and having a very narrow opening to hit between the foul ground off the Saltees and the Smalls: can it for a moment be doubted, that the erecting a distinguishing light on the great island of the Saltees is the very best of all plans, that can possibly be devised for the safe conducting of ships of the above description, or any other, in the fair way to St. George's Channel. In regard to the single light on Hook tower, this light is shamefully neglected, as can be easily proved by an enquiry at the custom-house of Waterford, where numerous complaints are lodged of the badness of this light; and we have frequently found it hardly visible at a mile from the coast, in a clear atmosphere

phere. But, if even it was properly attended to, the situation is by far too much embayed; to say nothing of the great danger of mistaking it for other single lights, by ships circumstanced as above, its low situation, its oblique direction, fifteen miles distance off the dangerous rocks adjacent to the Saltees, will not admit of the much wished for benefit, that might arise from such a light on that coast, as we have proposed, which would enable the vessel to hug the Irish coast as near as possible, with northerly winds, or to relieve the anxious mind with the promise of safety in southerly winds, and which none other, but such a light as we have proposed, can possibly accomplish.

From the circumstances here stated it appears that, although the light of the tower of Hook may be very useful, as a guide to the harbour of Waterford, it by no means supersedes the necessity of a light on the great island of the Saltees; and that there can be no doubt of the immediate propriety of forming a light on the great island of the Saltees, such as will distinguish it from the others in the opening of the Channel. To which it may be added, that from this island, containing upwards of twenty acres of arable land, plenty of water and provisions may be had for the family attending to it: a single revolving light, or three separate lights, might be attended to with less expence than on Tusker, be built also at less

expendence, and, above all, as there are funds perfectly sufficient for the purpose, without burthening the trade passing this light. It is to be expected, that active measures will immediately be adopted to form a proper light on this island.

P A R T II.

AGRICULTURE.

By Agriculture is here understood, the labour and ingenuity of the inhabitants exercised on the fertility of the soil for the purpose of rearing grain, in contradistinction to the employment of rearing and feeding cattle, which ought always to be considered as an object of much inferior importance to a state, than the production of grain.

When, however, the employment of rearing and feeding cattle is rendered subservient to the production of grain, by the cultivation of such vegetables for the food of cattle, which tend to add to the fertility of the soil, it is allowed to be no mean branch of the art of agriculture. But, if this employment is carried on by rearing and feeding cattle on the natural produce of the soil on lands unimproved, or by turning improved and arable lands wholly into pasture, it is an evil of the greatest magnitude, and which deserves the most serious consideration of the state, in what manner it is to be remedied, or avoided.

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The great object of the modern improvements in husbandry is, in as far as possible, to unite the employment of rearing grain for the food of man with that of root and green crops for the food of the most useful domestic animals, thereby rendering the wasteful system of fallowing in most cases unnecessary, and producing more abundant crops of grain, and also much more food for cattle, accumulating manure rapidly, and increasing the fertility of the soil, year after year, instead of running it out, and destroying its fertility.

This improved management of land has of late years become a very general object of attention in Great Britain. Animated by the example of our most gracious Sovereign, men of the highest rank have devoted their time and attention to this first of arts, which has produced exertions in many individuals, tending to accelerate the progress of agriculture towards perfection both as an art and a science.

Still, however, in England the employment of rearing grain has long been declining, and continues to be so. In the first half of the last century, the rearing of grain was the principal object of the English farmer, and great quantities of grain were annually exported, besides an abundant supply at home, at a moderate price.

During

During the latter half of the last century, the exportation of grain ceased, and a vast importation has taken place of the former exportation, and, with that, a proportional rise in the price of that necessary article of subsistence. Instead of the rearing of grain being the first object of the farmer, in many districts, which formerly produced great quantities of grain, it appears the arable lands are turned into pasturage, as it was in the declining state of Rome; insomuch that, in many of the principal farming counties, the farmers are ready to say with old Cato: to feed well is the most profitable thing in the management of a private estate, to feed tolerably well, the second; and to feed ill, the third: to plough, he ranked only in the fourth place of profit and advantage, and we fear that is too much the case at present with South British farmers. But, although it appears that in England, and also in many parts of Scotland, the production of grain has been giving way to the rearing and feeding of cattle and sheep, it would seem, that a contrary effect has been produced in Ireland. Pasturage has of late years been giving way in many districts to tillage, and much attention has been paid, particularly by his Excellency Earl Hardwicke, to encourage in the most liberal manner the public-spirited endeavours of the many respectable individuals, who are endeavouring to improve and

and to extend the cultivation of the soil by introducing those improvements, which are found to render this cultivation the most profitable.

Farming Society of Ireland.

For the purpose of forwarding the general improvement of agriculture, and forming also a medium of general communication on the subject of agriculture, a farming society was constituted in the beginning of the year 1800, at the suggestion of the Right Honourable John Foster, and the most noble the Marquis of Sligo, by the name of the Farming Society of Ireland, which has now encreased to the number of upwards of 800 members, consisting of men of the first rank and property of the island, and of others, practical farmers, and all zealous for extending agricultural improvements. This Society finding, that the breeds of cattle and swine, the great basis of the provision trade, have been greatly neglected, and the advantages of the culture of green and root crops for feeding cattle, and restoring fertility to a soil worn out by repeated corn crops, almost wholly unknown, have been endeavouring to induce strenuous exertions, for the improvement of the native breeds of the most useful animals, and for the introduction, from Great Britain, of such breeds

as

as may tend to accelerate that improvement, and be also found most adapted to the soil and climate of Ireland. For which purpose they hold out very liberal premiums for the best breeds of these animals, and have established regular meetings for deciding on these premiums, and exhibiting to the public the animals produced for that purpose ; which premiums are intended to be followed up by others for the growth of green and root crops. Thus leading the cultivator to the important objects now understood in some parts of Great Britain, under the name of the new husbandry, to which it also is one of the principal objects, in the review of the agriculture of this district, to direct the active attention of the inhabitants, who, although in many points of industry and management of their farms they are before their neighbours in the adjacent counties of Kilkenny, Waterford, and Wicklow, yet in the breeds of their domestic animals, particularly cattle and swine, are far behind the midland districts of the island.

Nor is an attention to the improvement of those domestic animals, and also of sheep, of advantage merely with regard to the profit, which the farmer can make of a better stock ; but it has been found, that the introduction of these valuable breeds induces the farmer to pursue the cultivation of green and root crops, for the purpose of feeding them. So that the farming

Society have, by their premiums for these improved breeds, induced a rapid and encreasing attention to the cultivation of plants for the food of cattle ; the advantages of which in improving the land being also perceived by the farmers, they are in many districts pursuing the cultivation of turnips, vetches, and clover, as a preparation for their grain crops, instead of the wasteful system of fallowing, and running out their lands by repeated crops of corn.

It is of much importance, that the advantage, arising from these improvements, should be explained to the common farmer, as we have found people of that class in Ireland not easily to be persuaded, that they will return a profit to them proportional to their greater trouble or expence. They maintain frequently, that these improvements are only fit for those, who have no rent to pay for their land. In some districts, however, of the county of Wexford the system of fallowing has been long abolished, intermediate crops of beans, between their their corn crops, immemorially practised, and their ground laid down in good heart with clover, and grass seeds. This improved state of agriculture is practised with considerable attention in the baronies of Forth and Bargie, and is also, in a certain degree, found in other parts of the county.

In these baronies, they drill and horse-hoe their crops of potatoes ; but until this year, in consequence
of

of premiums offered by a public-spirited individual, the planting of beans in rows, and horse-hoeing them, has not been practised. They however are at great pains to weed by the hand both their beans and corn crops; and by the general introduction of clover and grass seeds, they all allow, that they are able to keep a larger stock, much better than they formerly kept a small stock.

It may therefore be not a vain expectation, that the farmers of these baronies, already so much before the adjacent districts of Ireland, may be induced to adopt those beneficial improvements, which, it cannot be doubted, would speedily reward them for the trouble and expence of carrying them into practice.

Object of the new Husbandry.

The great object, therefore, of the professors of the new husbandry ought ever to be held up to the farmer, which is, by *summer* and *winter* feeding a stock of *cattle*, thereby to provide manure for the land employed in producing grain: by *eradicating* every kind of weed by the use of the hoe, so that nothing may be suffered to grow, but the plants you want to grow. In the use, also, of the various improved and new invented implements, for the purpose of expediting and abridging labour, and in the judicious selection of domestic animals; also the use of irrigation

on the most approved plan, and, in Ireland above all, the surface-draining and under-draining of the soil is of the highest importance. The usage of the old husbandry, (which prevails, in its very worst state, in the counties adjacent to that of Wexford,) is to foul the land by repeated corn crops, and to clean it partially and insufficiently* by summer fallows, or to seed it in its foul state for a temporary ley; to neglect wholly the use of the hoe, and pay no attention to the improvement of the breed of animals for stock or labour.

In the district we are examining, considerable attention is beginning to be paid, by many individuals, to the improved modes of husbandry; and the common farmers, in general, are far from deficient in both industry and attention to improvement.

We shall therefore endeavour to explain the circumstances of their management, in its various branches, as clearly as we are able.

Mode of Culture.

The cultivation of this county is allowed on all hands to have been much improved, within these twenty or twenty-five years past, and particularly in the baronies of Forth and Bargie. This improvement consists chiefly in the general introduction of
clover

* See Mr. Tighe's Statistical Survey of the County of Kilkenny.

clover and grass seeds, with which they now universally lay down their grounds after a moderate cropping with grain, between which crops of grain, in Forth and Bargie, they interpose beans; but still they too frequently take two crops of white corn, and even sometimes three crops running, without any intermediate green or pulse crops.

In Forth and Bargie, there is found great abundance of marle in the internal parts of those baronies, on the sea-shore great quantities of calcareous sand, and in some places much floating sea-weed. We have found of the marles, that they contained from twenty to thirty per cent. of calcareous earth; and the sea-sand we found to contain a much higher proportion, even as high as seventy-five per cent. of calcareous earth, being the *detritus* of comminuted sea-shells visible by a glass. The calcareous matter in the marle also evidently arises from similar substances, more dissolved and more completely blended with argillaceous earth. In the calcareous sand the siliceous particles remained mixed with the calcareous, but not blended or united; it is therefore better fitted for opening or dividing the soil.

With this sea-sand and the floating sea-weed, they manure their land *on the sea shore*, every year, with great industry. In some parts of Forth and Bargie they preserve, by this species of manure, their lands constantly in a state of great fertility. In the parishes

of

of Carne and part of Kilmore the land has been, time immemorially, under alternate crops of barley and beans, affording returns frequently of twenty barrels to the Irish acre of barley, and twenty barrels of beans. In the internal parts they manure with marle, and generally put on from 1000 to 1400 cart-loads per acre, and commonly sow wheat, which produces on the ley ten barrels an acre, varying from that to seven: ten they calculate upon in a moderately good year. Last year the average of wheat was twelve barrels to the acre. This year (1804) it will not exceed seven barrels.

In the eastern district there also abounds marle, both of the argillaceous and calcareous kind, throughout Balagheen, Gorey, and on both sides of the Slaney, on the banks of which also is found pebble limestone for a considerable extent, after the Slaney enters the country; these districts, as well as Bargie and Forth, being for the greatest part alluvial. The advantages arising from the abundance of these manures have, no doubt, contributed to the great improvement, which we observed in some of those parts of the county. But, in the more inland and westerly parts, there is also a degree of labour and industry, that we have not observed to be equalled in the other adjacent districts of the island. In Shelmaliere, Bantry, and Scarewalsh they manure with lime, which they procure with great expence and labour

labour from the adjoining counties of Carlow and Kilkenny. The same also the farmers in Shelburne are obliged to do. Those, however, on the parts adjacent to the rivers Barrow and Suir procure from the beds of these rivers, at low water, a rich sediment of a marly nature, but which is very heavy, and cannot be brought to a distance from the river at a moderate expence; they, therefore, more internally are obliged to bring limestone from a greater distance.

Throughout the whole of this county, therefore, all is labour; whether employed in digging the marle from the pit, whether in drawing the limestone a vast length of often a miserable road, whether in dredging the wet and oozy mud from the beds of the rivers, whether, in the midst of wintry storms at the dead of night, dragging the uprooted sea-weed from the roaring surf, drenching them in its waves and threatening them with destruction! All is a constant round of industry almost unequalled, and strongly impressing on the admiring observer the ardent wish, that their labour may meet with its due reward, and that nothing may again happen, to delude those industrious people to leave their fields and their ploughs for the misery and destruction of insurrection or rebellion.*

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* Far would it be from us to offer any palliation of the conduct of the rebels in this country, in the year 1798; but we cannot help observing, that

While at the same time we have observed considerable progress in industry and cultivation, generally in this district, yet certainly this industry and cultivation is carried on in greater perfection in Forth and Bargie, than in any other part of the county; and not only does this appear very evidently, but we find, that it is there cultivation *first originated*, and that it has been carried from thence to the other parts of the county.

Here we cannot help expressing our surprise at Mr. Arthur Young's strange assertion, that he could not see any thing different in Bargie and Forth from the rest of the country. It is, indeed, perhaps of little moment to notice any thing, that is said by a man, who, professing he had a great desire to visit these baronies, of which he had heard so much, passed through them in a part of a day, and left them the next morning at an early hour.

For our part it is eight years since we first visited these baronies, and in many and repeated visits since we have had only one uniform impression, that both in the cultivation, in their habitations,
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that, as sudden and general as was the rising of the inhabitants of this county, in the month of May of that year, no less sudden and general was the return of these people, in July following, to their industry and their homes (for houses thousands had none); which most certainly is to be ascribed to his Majesty's gracious act of mercy, and at the same time proves, that the dispositions of the inhabitants were far from being irreclaimable. By the beginning of harvest, order, as far as related to the insurgents, was perfectly restored.

in their manners, habits, in their decent and orderly deportment, the peasantry are not only superior to those in any other district of Ireland we have seen, but very little inferior to many of the happiest districts of Great-Britain.

In the baronies of Forth and Bargie, the general complaint of indolence, idleness, and want of employment for the people, is never heard. Their inhabitants are so fully occupied in the cultivation of the soil, as to afford them all the means of subsistence and comfort, attended with a degree of prosperity, and even wealth, unknown in other parts of Ireland, circumstances very naturally arresting the attention of any person desirous of real investigation, and of exhibiting what may be done in other parts of this island by what has actually taken place in one district.

While the haggard face of poverty, too frequently in many parts of Ireland, wrings the feeling heart, we behold in one situation of considerable extent nothing but chearful cultivators, amongst whom want and misery are equally unknown, unless from the sad tales of the mendicant wanderers bending hither their weary steps, to partake of the well known hospitality of the humble but plenteous board of the inhabitants of the English baronies. Nor although the crowds of beggars we have witnessed, pouring into this happy region during the summer months

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from very remote parts of Ireland, would seem sufficient to overpower their hospitality and kindness, are they ever found to apply for relief in vain; while amongst the natives of those baronies the true spirit of their English ancestors is kept up, and begging looked upon as an indelible disgrace. Nor are any found to stand in need of assistance but those that are old, blind, or infirm, and sometimes young children becoming orphans. All these are readily and cheerfully maintained by their neighbours, without the necessity of recurring to parochial rates or assessments, which proves that this district is able fully to support its population at present: and no apprehension of want need be entertained, even with a considerable increase of the number of its inhabitants.

Strongly impressed with the appearance of such a state of society, we are led anxiously to wish, that such were the state of the whole island, and not of this island only; for we are fully sensible that there is much room to wish, that such were also the state of many and numerous extensive districts both in the north and in the south of the sister island.

With all the splendour Great-Britain is surrounded, all the general appearance of comfort with which life is there embellished, whoever will condescend to visit the cottages of the poor must find, that the palm will be yielded, for comfort, general propriety,

propriety, and the virtues of humanity, to the district, to which we have alluded.

We have therefore been persuaded, that our time could not be employed in a manner more agreeable to the design of the Dublin Society, than by endeavouring to present as accurate a view of the circumstances of this district as we are able, and to discover, if we can, from what causes it has arisen that the state of this part of the island should have arrived at so superior a degree of improvement, and from what causes it has arisen, that all Ireland should not have equalled, or surpassed it; and lastly, by what means it appears to us, that a similar state of improvement might be introduced in other situations, and generally throughout the whole of the island.

We are far, however, from flattering ourselves, that we shall be able to present these important objects in their full force. It would require much superior eloquence, and much more extensive knowledge, to present these objects in the manner they deserve to be presented, which, as has been justly observed by a gentleman who has made the improvement of the agriculture of this district, long an object of his active attention, would afford a subject for the consideration of the politician and philosopher, as well as the farmer.

For many years past complaints have been made, in all parts of Great-Britain, of the destruction of

the small farmers and cottagers, driving them from their hamlets, and consolidating farms to an enormous extent. This revolution, which has gradually taken place during the last fifty or sixty years, has lessened the number of suppliers, and added largely to the body of consumers.

The cottagers have been driven into villages, the villagers have been forced into towns, and the townsmen have been enticed into cities. While the cottagers remained in their hamlets, while the villagers were spread abroad in their vicinages, the chearful cultivators of their little farms, they not only derived much of their subsistence from the soil, whereon they lived, but contributed also to the furnishing many supplies, which are now found wanting. Whereas, when they became townsmen and citizens, they ceased to be suppliers, and became altogether consumers.

This system, which we have long deplored, has been not a little forwarded by the writings of Mr. Arthur Young and others, who incessantly talk about the profits of great capitals to be employed in agriculture, and reprobate the division of land into small farms, without ever considering that, what is great to the capacity and means of one farmer, may be small to the capacity of another, and that it is therefore no matter whether the farms are small or great, provided that activity is given to the plough
and

and to the spade over every valley and every mountain in Great-Britain and Ireland.

This activity can never be given but by means of numbers of hands spread abroad over the country. And whether these consist of cultivators, who derive all their supplies from the cultivation of the soil, or whether they derive part of it from manufactures, from mines, or from fisheries, the political œconomist maintains, that it is on such a state of employment and population that the true prosperity, real wealth, and strength of a country must depend.

In this state of employment and occupation we have found the greatest part of the county of Wexford to be at this moment. In such a state as this was the greatest part of England, about the beginning and towards the middle of the last century. Whereas it now appears, that the agricultural system they have been led to adopt has occasioned a vast depopulation of the country, and with that all the evils, which wise men have suspected, and the existence of which is now fully proved. Nor is there any proposition in mathematics, that is more demonstrable than the proposition, that this agricultural system, practised and praised in Great-Britain, depopulates the country.*

This

* The enumeration of 1801, among a thousand other informations, evinces the truth of that position.

This system of agriculture, by pretending to make much profit from great capitals, with little labour, by absurdly aping the manufacturing system, has produced a very different effect.

The great aim of the manufacturing system is, by the application of great capital, by the division of labour, by improvements in machinery, and a variety of expedients, to occasion a vast increase of the quantity of work, and at the same time produce a better commodity, and at a cheaper rate. The constant effect

	<i>No. of Houses</i> <i>in 1690.</i>	<i>Ditto</i> <i>in 1801.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
In Bedfordshire	12,170	12,073	97
Cambridgeshire	18,629	16,451	2,178
Essex	40,545	33,398	1,147
Huntingdon	8,713	7,072	1,641
Lincoln	45,019	42,489	2,530
Norfolk	56,579	49,140	7,439
Rutland	3,661	3,361	300
Suffolk	47,537	32,805	14,732

These are all agricultural counties ; and the diminution of the number of their houses, during the intervening period, is a sad demonstration how much this agricultural system extends to depopulate the countries, which are comprehended within the circle of its unhappy influence. The same thing has taken place, but in a much greater degree, in an equal number of shires of Scotland, which have been the most boasted of for improved agriculture, and have been in the same manner depopulated. The ministers of many of the parishes in North-Britain point out, in their statistical accounts published by Sir John Sinclair, the consolidation of farms, sheep farming, the drawing the people from the hamlets into towns, as the obvious causes of the depopulation of their several parishes, and which in many districts have driven the inhabitants of a whole country side to cultivate the land in America.

effect of the system we deplore has been to produce a worse commodity at a dearer rate.*

In fact, the nature of agriculture does not admit of these subdivisions of labour, nor of that complete separation of one business from another, on which the great increase and perfection of manufactures so entirely depends.

It is impossible, as Dr. Smith observes, to separate so entirely the business of the grazier from that of the corn farmer, as the trade of the smith is from that of the carpenter. The spinner is almost always a distinct person from the weaver; but the ploughman, the harrower, the sower of the seed, and the reaper of the corn, are often the same. The occasions for those different sorts of labour returning with the different seasons of the year, it is impossible that one man should be employed in any of them. This impossibility of making so complete and entire a separation of all the different branches of labour employed in agriculture is one reason, why the application of manufacturing maxims to agriculture has not afforded that productiveness, which has taken place in their application to the improvement of manufactures. It affords a strong presumption, that a country cultivated by a numerous body of occupiers, small and great, but rather smaller than otherwise, will be found to be

* See Chalmers on the corn trade, and the depreciation of money.

be more productive, and to bring its productions cheaper to the market. This seems to have been the state of England during the first fifty years of the last century, and is the state of this part of Ireland, and perhaps of the greatest part of the tillage counties of Ireland at this period.

We would hope, that by spirited encouragement the cultivation of the soil may still be renewed and increased in England; but, when we consider the flourishing state of her numerous manufactures, the high wages held out by the manufacturers, we fear it will be at least a considerable period, before she will be able to supply a sufficient quantity of grain at a moderate price, of her own growth, for the support of her increasing population.

Next, however, to her being able to supply herself from the produce of her own soil, is the advantage of deriving that supply from any other part of the United kingdom; thereby preventing her wealth from being sent abroad, to enrich foreign nations, to cultivate the fields, and increase the population and strength of those, with whom she may eventually be obliged to contend in arms.

We have long been of opinion, that Ireland presents this means of supply to the wants of Great-Britain; that while the increasing wealth of that part of the United kingdom has turned her corn fields into grass, for the supply of meat instead of grain, her increasing

creasing manufacturing population may be supplied with the grain they want from this part of the kingdom, by affording a sufficient encouragement to the inhabitants fully to exercise their labour and ingenuity on the fertility of the soil of Ireland.

We have been much confirmed in this opinion by the circumstances, which have presented themselves to our consideration, in the examination of the county of Wexford and particularly some of its districts; and we shall therefore pursue this enquiry, as far as, we think, the observations we have made will bear us out. To evince the impracticability of Ireland's being able to produce such a surplus of grain as we suppose, the humidity of the climate of Ireland has been adduced as a reason, that the cultivation even of grain should not be made a principal object of attention; and it has been maintained, that its inhabitants should turn their attention chiefly to pasturage in preference to tillage. From all the attention we have been able to pay to this subject, we are convinced, as we have already observed, that the injuries, which the humidity of the climate of this district, and other districts adjacent to it, occasions to the culture of corn, are more inconsiderable than is generally imagined. We have not found, that in ordinary good seasons there is any deficiency in the grain arriving to perfection; and in seasons such as the last, where much rain fell in England, in the
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part of the summer, as well as here, we have found that the crops were not more injured in this district than in the opposite coast of Wales, or in the counties of Bedford and Suffolk, which are on the same parallel in England. The late great advances of the Irish in the culture of grain are sufficient to shew, that fears on this head are in a great measure groundless, and that the defects arising from thence may, in all probability, be remedied by improved cultivation, by the introduction of the horse-hoeing husbandry and other improvements, which, by keeping the ground clean and free from grass and weeds, may enable the farmer to counteract this humidity of climate, which in many other respects is an advantage instead of being a disadvantage. Even the greater quantity of rain, that is supposed to fall in Ireland, in the earlier months, will be found in many situations not only useful, but necessary for its agriculture. From these and many other facts we could state, we must conclude, that the inhabitants of Ireland have little or nothing, with which they can reproach nature: her soil, her situation, productions, climate are such, as to afford the most ample scope for the exertion and employment of every species of industry, but particularly for the industry employed for the cultivation of land; and that the deficiency in the general industry of the country arises from causes proceeding not from natural disadvantages, which do
not

not exist, but from some other defects, which should be examined, developed, and corrected. But, as it would appear from the general industry of the inhabitants of the county of Wexford, that there has not been any hindrance to their industry, at least in some parts of it, it is necessary to take a short view of the history of this district, and then to explain the particular circumstances and mode of industry in the culture of their soil.

*View of the ancient state and settlement of the English
in the county of Wexford.*

Whatever credit may be due to the splendid accounts of antiquarians, respecting the civilization, wise institutions, and happy state of the Irish nation in more remote periods, it is certain that on the invasion of the English, in the reign of King Henry the Second, towards the latter end of the twelfth century, the people were as barbarous as any of the uncivilized nations of Europe at that period. It therefore could not be supposed, that agriculture had made any considerable progress; the inhabitants subsisting chiefly on flesh, of which it appears they had abundance from the numerous herds of cattle, with which Ireland then abounded.

In the time of the Romans we are informed, that the eastern district of the county of Wexford,

extending from the river Oboca, or Ovoca, which still is near the northern boundary of this county, to Concarne or Carnepoint, was inhabited by a tribe called the Menapii, who had for their chief city Menapia, being placed to the eastward of the Modora, Slanus, or Slave.

The western part of the district of Wexford was possessed by the Brigantes, who owned also all Waterford, and gave the name of Bergie to their part of Wexford, which to this day gives the name to the barony of Bergie or Bargie.

The chief city of Menapia has been confounded with Waterford; some have also asserted, that it was situated where Wexford is now placed. From the inspection of a very ancient copy of the map of Ptolomy the geographer, who flourished about the year of Christ 140, which copy we have seen in the King's library, there remains no doubt with us, that the ancient Menapia was situated where Fernes now stands, and which was also the chief city of King Dermot on the landing of the English.* Wexford was then inhabited by the Danes or Ostmen, to which King Dermot laid siege with the aid of Fitzstephen and Fitzgerald, and about three hundred and

* It may be here not improper to observe, that this first landing of the English was merely that of a few private adventurers, and that they landed at Bag and Bunn, in the county of Wexford, where the remains of their camp is to be seen at this day, and which is improperly called Strongbow's camp, who landed in the county of Waterford some months afterwards.

and ninety men they had brought with them from England to his assistance, which, having surrendered, was granted to Fitzstephen, and Carrig with the lands adjoining to Fitzgerald.* To Hervey de Mountmorres, a relation of Earl Strongbow, he gave the two cantreds or hundreds lying between Wexford and Waterford, which are now denominated the baronies of Forth and Bargie. There seem at this period to have been very few people in this district, and indeed, by every account, the greatest part of Ireland was inhabited at this time by tribes of people very little further advanced, than the inhabitants of North America on the first invasions of the Europeans. To this thin population, as well as the divisions of the island into numerous small tribes, is to be ascribed the facility, with which the English established themselves, with scarcely any army, or hardly a battle, after the few encounters on their first arrival, so that in a few years time they had wholly subdued the natives, not only in the county of Wexford, but in various parts of the four provinces. It was, however, in the two cantreds or hundreds, granted as above mentioned to Hervey de Mountmorres, that a colony of the Anglo-Saxons, who had been for some time settled on the sea coasts of South Wales,

* From Fitzgerald the Duke of Leinster's family are descended. The last lineal heir of Fitzstephen died some years ago at Youghal in great poverty.

Wales, were planted, since called the baronies of Forth and Bargie, and known in the country by the name of the English baronies, from the first English colony having not only been there planted, but from their descendants remaining to this day much more unmixed with the original inhabitants, than any others in this district.

These two baronies were not conquered or taken by violence, but were granted by Dermot, king of this part of Ireland, to one of the English adventurers, who had come over in the reign of Henry II. to assist him in the recovery of his kingdom. Hervey of Mountmorres, the nephew of Richard Earl Strongbow, was the person declared lord of these baronies, and who, it is supposed, brought over the colony from South Wales, of the Anglo-Saxons, to settle in this part of Ireland.

This part of the county of Wexford was well calculated for an infant colony. These baronies are surrounded on the east and south by the ocean, and on the west are separated from the rest of the county by an arm of the sea, called the Scare of Bannow; on the north they are bounded by a ridge of mountain, called the mountain of Fort or Forta, signifying strong or strength, and from this it would seem the barony of Fort or Forth acquired its name; in which barony the descendants of this colony, about 50 years ago, spoke the Anglo-Saxon language in considerable

siderable purity, a vocabulary of which was collected by that assiduous and learned illustrator of Irish antiquities, General Vallancey, and published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. The inhabitants still speak, amongst one another, a dialect of the Saxon mixed with English, and have no Irish whatever.

These baronies extend about ten Irish miles from east to west, along the sea shore, and stretching from thence, to the mountain of Fort or Forth, to the breadth of eight miles. The whole extending from the mountain of Forth consists of low land, entirely alluvial, containing marle intermixed with shells. In some places the horns and the bones of the moose deer have been found. There is here also limestone of marine origin, nor does the granite appear any where but at Concarne point, which consists of compact granite.

The appearance of the baronies from the mountain of Forth is not unlike the appearance of the south of the county of Devon from the mountains of north Dartmore, though on a much smaller scale. The whole is well inhabited. The farm houses generally as in Devonshire, built with mud and thatched, appearing warm and comfortable, with convenient out-houses adjoining; even the very small farmers, of from five to ten acres, have their habitations comfortable and convenient. The inhabitants
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do not live entirely on potatoes, as in many other parts of Ireland. They have always oatmeal boiled with milk for breakfast, and meat for their dinner twice a week, that is on Sundays and Thursdays, and very often on Tuesdays.

We were desirous of ascertaining the population of this district, but found it very difficult to accomplish, from the fear that the people had of the enquiry being intended for some purpose of revenue; and the clergy of the Roman Catholic persuasion were afraid to assist us, without a special order from government, as much clamour had arisen from an attempt made to ascertain the population, previous to the late rebellion.

We have, however, been able to come near enough the truth, for the purpose of general reasoning on the subject.

The barony of Forth comprehends twenty-two parishes, including the town of Wexford, which is divided into four parishes within the walls, and three parishes in the suburbs. By a return, with which we were favoured by the Rev. Mr. Elgee, Rector of Wexford, the population of that town is as follows:

WEXFORD.

WEXFORD.		
<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Inhabitants.</i>
West Ward - -	126	1134
East Ward - -	138	1242
North Ward - -	140	1260
South Ward - -	254	2286
	658	within the walls 5922

The parishes forming the suburbs are also as follows, the number of acres being taken from the lists of the barony constables, and the number of houses from the hearthmoney collectors, returned to government in the year 1800.

The Rev. Mr. Elgee assured us, that the rate in these parishes might be taken at the same as those within the walls, viz. nine persons to each house. But that we might not exceed, we have taken the population at the same rate as country parishes, in order to determine which we obtained an accurate enumeration of one parish, consisting of 89 families, inhabiting 89 houses, which we found to amount to 269 males, and 291 females, or 560 persons, or 6.2 to a house. We have however taken it only at six to a house. Mr. Bushe takes the whole county of Wexford at the same rate of six to a house.

PARISHES IN THE SUBURBS OF WEXFORD.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>No. of Acres.</i>
St. John's - - -	348	320
St. Michael's - - -	404	160
St. Peter's - - -	191	1200
	943	1680

COUNTRY PARISHES IN THE BARONY OF FORTH.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>No. of Acres.</i>
Sharmeen - - -	25	480
Carne - - -	89	910
Island - - -	83	1100
Rosslare - - -	59	1000
B. Brennan, and	39	} 740
Killinic - - -	54	
Kilscoran - - -	57	1295
Maglas - - -	96	1830
Kilrane - - -	74	1595
Jacumpton - - -	51	1720
Rathmanee - - -	75	960
Drinagh - - -	128	1980
Rathaspeck - - -	67	1205
Kildavan - - -	75	1220
Ballymore - - -	53	1360
	1005	17,395
Parishes in the Sub- urbs of Wexford	} 943	1,680
	1,948	19,075

BARONY

BARONY OF BARGIE.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>No. of Acres.</i>
Tomhaggard, and	- 67	} 2200
Kilturk - - - -	73	
Kilmoor - - - -	140	1900
Mulrankin, and	- - 86	} 2300
Kilcoan - - - -	53	
Bannow, and	- - 131	} 3750
Killag - - - -	29	
Duncormick, and	- 133	} 3900
Carrig - - - -	70	
Ballyconnic, and	- 72	} 2850
Kilmanan - - - -	90	
Ambrosetown, and	109	} 3300
Kilcavan - - - -	89	
	1142	20,200

From the above it appears, that the baronies of Forth and Bargie, exclusive of the town of Wexford within the walls, amount to 39,275* acres, 13,090 houses, and at six to a house will give 18,540 inhabitants, to which if we add the population of Wexford

* These numbers of acres, taken from the barony constables' books, give not the whole number of acres in the barony, only those farms that are assessed. The whole extensive mountain of Forth, we understood, is not included, nor some large desmesnes. We fear also the quantity of acres is taken more from computation than any accurate measurement: the Grand Jury seem to be of that opinion, as they have ordered an actual survey to be made, from an opinion that the account in the constables' books are much less than the true quantity.

ford within the walls, it will give 24,462 inhabitants in the two baronies; of which 1740 families are wholly employed in the cultivation of the soil, in such a manner as not only to support themselves in great ease and comfort, but to produce a surplus forming a very considerable addition to the wealth and revenue of the kingdom. This surplus produce is chiefly in barley and wheat, the potatoes and oats being considered as the food of the inhabitants, although there are considerable quantities of both sold in the town of Wexford, with great quantities of poultry, and abundance of pork, beef, mutton, and remarkably excellent veal; there are also some dairies, where a considerable quantity of butter is made up for exportation, and some cheese; a considerable fishery for oysters, lobsters, cod, turbot, and soles, is carried on upon the coast. In the winter season also the herrings frequently make their appearance in considerable abundance: to which ought to be added immense flocks of widgeon, barnacle, teal, guiniard, ducks, geese, and wild swans, altogether forming an abundance of not only the necessities but the luxuries of life, not to be surpassed in any district of the British Islands.

The whole of the barony of Forth and about one third part of Bargie is evidently alluvial, containing, at the depth of a few feet under the soil, abundance of marle, with marine shells and rounded pieces of limestone.

limestone. A vein also of compact limestone of marine origin runs, in a direction from north-east to south-west, from the bay of Wexford, about a mile from the town, to the sea at Duncormick hill. The use of marle seems to have been introduced into this part of Ireland, as a manure, from a very early period, most probably by the Saxons on their first settling in this district, as it is said it was by them introduced into England. Lime is said to have been also made use of to a considerable extent formerly, but is now given up in favour of marle, which forms the basis of cultivation in all those parts not immediately on the sea shore. For the lands bordering on the sea to the distance of about a mile the floating sea-weed and calcareous sand, found on the sea-shore, form the principal manures, and in those parts, where great abundance of this sea-weed is found, they obtain very excellent crops of both grain and potatoes.

In the mode of applying these manures, they uniformly prefer laying the marle on the ley or sod. This is done in the summer, as soon after their seed-time as they find their horses have recovered a little from their spring labour; for here, as in all parts of Ireland, the common farmers never feed their working cattle with oats. They put out from 1000 to 1400 car-loads to the Irish acre; it is considered, that the quantity should be such as to afford, when spread tolerably thick, covering to the ground. The calcareous

calcareous sea-sand they also put generally on the surface, but often also form a compost of sea-sand and sea-weed, and sometimes earth and the scrapings of ditches, and plough it into the soil.

The dung they uniformly use for their potatoes, and often also sea-weed for the purpose of raising that useful article.

After marling, they generally take wheat with one ploughing of the ley, harrow in the seed, and shovel the furrows. They sow generally in October, but often in November, about three fourths of a barrel, that is about fifteen stone. In moderately good years they state, that they obtain from ten to fifteen barrels; but we apprehend from correct information, that from eight to twelve is nearer the truth, to the acre. The cultivation of wheat has been of late years very much extended. They often take wheat after their potatoes: their second crop after wheat is barley, but this is not confined to their wheat stubbles; they have generally much more ground under barley than wheat, the barley being their principal crop. For barley they plough twice, and sow from a barrel and a half to two barrels on an acre; they have generally fifteen barrels produce in good years, and even in favourable situations upon the sea-coast they have sometimes twenty barrels to the acre.

After barley they take beans, ploughing once, and sowing a barrel and a half to the acre. They get from 15 to 20 barrels of beans to the acre. Beans also
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are frequently taken on the ley, dressing with earth from the sides of the field, put up sometimes with marle and sea-sand in a compost, or with sea-weed. Beans they consider as a preparation for barley, and they now generally lay down their lands after beans with barley, clover, and grass seeds. Beans are not now nearly so general a crop as formerly ; they complain that, being liable to be full of weeds, the soil is exhausted instead of being ameliorated, and particularly, where the crop of beans fails, they never have good barley the next year, because the weeds become still more predominant. This remark is not peculiar to this country, but the same thing was found to take place in England, until the mode of sowing the beans in rows and horse-hoeing them was introduced.

It is to be hoped that the premiums offered, and the endeavours made by the public spirited individual we mentioned above, will be attended with the effect of introducing the practice of horse-hoeing their beans, and by that means restoring this valuable crop to its place in the husbandry of this district.

The parishes on the sea-coast are divided into small holdings of five, six, ten, and sometimes twenty acres, on which is exhibited that wonderful industry and exertion, which never fails to take place in Ireland, where the inhabitants have any security by leases for the enjoyment of the fruit of their labour, however

however small the extent of the field they have to cultivate.

The parish of Carne or Carran is a very remarkable instance of this disposition to industry, and is highly deserving the attention of those, who are desirous of estimating what may be done in this part of the United kingdom.

Eastern District.

This part of the county of Wexford is separated from the barony of Forth by the river Slaney, and consists of the baronies of Balagheen, Gorey, and part of Scarewalsh. It is bounded on the north by the mountains of Wicklow; on the east it is bounded by the Slaney, the banks of which, on both sides of this river, may be considered as being contained in this district, as the lands on either side contain the same alluvial strata, which pervade the greatest part of the district.

In the northern part of Scarewalsh and of Gorey there is some mountainous ground, consisting of secondary strata, chiefly shistose argillite, with little or no modern formations. There are in other parts single mountains, of no great height, of similar strata, but the general character of the country is that of low and gently swelling hills and vales, opening east and southward, through which numerous streams take an easy winding course toward the sea. In all parts

parts of this district there is abundance of marle, both of the argillaceous and calcareous kind, and in some the calcareous or shell marle; and here are often found, as in the southern district, the horns and bones of the moose deer.

The Slaney pours its waters also through much alluvial strata, and contains on each side of its banks for a considerable extent, after it enters the country, abundance of the rounded and blunted fragments of limestone. These strata disappear about three miles above Enniscorthy, to which place the tide flows and the river is navigable for boats and lighters. Below Enniscorthy, and from thence to Wexford, the banks of the Slaney are high and sloping, beautifully ornamented by many elegant seats, where art and nature are combined in rendering this part of the country equal to any thing in the United kingdom, highly deserving the attention of the traveller, and, if within the compass of our design, would afford us pleasure to describe. There are also some spirited examples of agricultural improvement. The most conspicuous in this respect is Temple-Hill, the seat of William Harvey, Esq. who has a stock of the new Leicester breed of sheep, and in the course of a few years has made a very considerable improvement. This gentleman disposes of his tups at a moderate price to the neighbouring farmers, thereby inducing them to make a trial of the advantage of this valuable breed.

Mr. Harvey is also cultivating green winter food on a large scale for his stock, which shews also the truth of the remark we have formerly made, that the introduction of these valuable breeds is always an inducement to cultivate green winter and spring food.

At Bellview, on the opposite side of the Slaney, Mr. George Ogle is improving his demesne in a superior stile, for which purpose he has procured a husbandman from Scotland, who is introducing the mode of feeding cattle practised there. Near this Counsellor Lyster, at Bellmount, although on a small scale, cultivates with much neatness tares, rape, turnips, and the turnip cabbage. Near Temple-Hill, Mr. Armstrong Brown has for many years been in the practice of cultivating turnips, rape, cabbage, and other green crops for winter food. Mr. LeHunte also, at Artramonde, is very attentive to agricultural improvement. There are many other gentlemen who have returned to the country since the late insurrection, who seem desirous of extending their improvements, but during the short time yet elapsed they have not had time to make much progress. Some of the gentlemen of this neighbourhood formed, soon after the rebellion, an agricultural society, in which they were joined by several gentlemen from the baronies of Forth and Bargie, which afforded an admirable example of desiring to turn the attention
of

of the country to the improvement of this the first of arts, and to diffuse its benefits amongst the lower classes. We had the honour of being appointed an honorary member of this society, and of repeatedly attending their meetings during the four last years, and perceived with great pleasure the full attendance of the common farmers, and their emulation in contending for the prizes, of which we shall endeavour to give an account in another part of this work. We were also happy to find, that the advantage of such meetings was felt, by the request of several gentlemen, not previously accustomed to attend to such objects, requesting to be admitted members of the society. But, although we were very much pleased to see this disposition shewing itself amongst the gentlemen of the country, and, immediately around this neighbourhood, observed some attention to improvement amongst the common farmers, yet in other parts of this fine district there seems to be very little of the spirit of improvement amongst the gentry, or of industry amongst the common farmers. At a very little distance from the entrance into this district from Wexford, where it is separated by the river from the barony of Forth, you perceive industry and improvement rapidly decline at even five miles distance: either toward Oulart, or on the sea-shore road, hardly a trace remains of the industry, appearance of comfort, or happiness, which is every

where to be seen in the English barony ; neither in their persons, habitations, manners, nor habits, do they seem the inhabitants of the same country. Yet the soil is excellent ; a great part of it is of a light sandy loam, abounding with marle, this alternating with a clayey loam, containing also marle, all capable of affording abundant returns for the industry of man. In this district around Oulart, and from thence to Gorey, and the mountains, all the calamities, always attending on public disturbances in Ireland, raged in the rebellion of 1798, in a dreadful degree, and may, no doubt, be one cause of the appearance of poverty and wretchedness of the inhabitants : but there must be some more remote causes, which impede industry in this part of the country, which must be left to further investigation, and which did not appear to us very easy to be traced. A circumstance, however, was stated to us, and which may have considerable effect, that on some extensive properties the practice of letting lands to middle-men was carried to a great extent, for the purpose of securing votes at the country elections. And we find ourselves obliged to say that, wherever we have found that practice to take place in the county of Wexford, we have never found either industry or improvement, and we think it very likely to be one cause of all that indolence and poverty we observed in this district.

At

At Lord Courtown's we saw a considerable field of turnips, at Mr. Brownrigg's of Barndown some rape, and found that wheat is beginning to be cultivated with good success; and with the return of quiet times we have little doubt, but that in this district cultivation must be rapidly extended. The finely swelling hills afford every opportunity for draining their clay grounds, and for enriching their light sands by marle, sheep, and turnips: vast tracts would also with ease be subjected to irrigation.

Midland and Western District.

In the midland and western districts, comprehending Shelmaliere, Shelburne, Bantry, and the remaining part of Scarewalsh, there is no marle, after you recede a few miles from the Slaney. On the sea-coast of the barony of Shelburne there is calcareous sand, and in the rivers Suir and Barrow a rich calcareous sediment equal to the best marle; but in all other parts the inhabitants are obliged to procure lime from a great distance, either by bringing the limestone to the creeks on the sea-coast from above Waterford by lighters, or in the upper parts of Bantry and Scarewalsh they bring it with great labour from the lime-kilns in the county of Carlow, and sometimes also by bringing the lime-stone from
thence,

thence, or from the gravel-pits on the banks of the Slaney near Newtown-Barry: We shall therefore notice what appears to us likely to improve the husbandry of these different descriptions of situations, as we proceed in considering the different heads of our subject.

Mode of Culture.

In examining the mode, in which the labour of the inhabitants of any district is applied to the culture of the soil, our enquiries we naturally directed, in the first place, to the consideration of such natural advantages as may arise from the proximity of substances fitted for encreasing the fertility of the soil, and adapted to the various kinds of produce to be obtained from the soil, and the industry and skill of the inhabitants in the application of these substances. Secondly, their labour and ingenuity in providing artificial manures, where natural substances for that purpose are deficient, and the cultivation of their lands so as to be rendered most productive by proper management.

It has already appeared that, except in the southern and eastern districts, there is little of these substances contained in the lands of this county, but that the inhabitants are very industrious in procuring
them

them from other places. They are, however, greatly deficient in the skill or ingenuity of providing artificial manures, either in aid of these substances, or as substitutes where they are not to be had, and also very deficient in the economical management of their lands, so as to make their manures go as far as possible. In the consideration of the different crops, we shall keep these objects in our view, and make what observations on them as may appear to us likely to be the means of exciting attention to those objects.

Wheat.

The cultivation of this grain, it is universally admitted, has, within these last twenty or thirty years, been greatly extended in this county. That it could be further extended with great advantage to the farmer, and to the supplying of this valuable article, cannot be doubted. They generally take wheat after potatoes, or after marling on the ley, with one ploughing, harrowing, and covering the seed by the shovel from the furrows. In sowing their wheat in this county, they are generally too late in the season, being the end of October, or the beginning of November, whereas it is found in England, that the best time for sowing wheat is the beginning of
Septem-

September. When it is sown after potatoes, it must be late, and therefore it would be better to take a crop of barley and clover, and, ploughing down the clover after one years ley, to take a crop of wheat. In the method of trenching their wheat, and covering it with the shovel, there is an advantage in having all the grain regularly covered, and they consider that it should be deep in the ground. In this the farmers seem perfectly right, as independently of the injuries it may receive near the surface, if a grain is but slightly covered with earth, it will not stool or tiller; the plumula will rise directly above the ground from the seed, and there will be no room for the coronal roots to be formed from the intermediate cauder; but it is from the coronal roots only that new stems will arise, and this is called planting, stooling, or tillering. If, moreover, when the corn is above ground, the first joint of the stem should be covered with earth, as the case may be in drill husbandry, new roots will again strike from the joint, and new stems will arise, and this may be considered as another advantage of drill husbandry. Some persons have advanced an opinion, in which few farmers will concur, that it is not advantageous for corn to tiller; it is supposed that stems, formed later than the original shoot, would be weaker and later in ripening; they may perhaps be weaker, but experience, as well as the knowledge of the process of vegetation,

vegetation, shews that they will not be later in consequence of weakness; for it is well known, that debilitated plants will come to their perfection and ripen earlier their fruit. Gardeners diminish the vigour of plants and seeds for this purpose, and most farmers must have seen, that strong and luxuriant corn will ripen later than weaker plants, that were sown at the same time; the youngest stems therefore, though weak, will keep place as to ripening with their elder brother. See Mr. Tighe's Statistical Survey of the county of Kilkenny, p. 185. To this very scientific explanation of Mr. Tighe's we can add, that we examined Mr. Duckett of Esher's drilled wheat at harvest in the year 1803, in company with Dr. Anderson and Mr. James Harvey, and found that both in the rows drilled at nine, and at eighteen inches, the wheat had tillered greatly, and had a great many stems of later growth, apparently weaker and shorter than the principal stems; yet by the most careful examination we could not find, that there was any difference in the ripening of the younger from that of the elder brothers. And what is equally of importance to be remarked, these drilled crops of Mr. Duckett's appeared both to Dr. Anderson and Mr. Harvey as full crops as any broad-cast crops they had ever seen. Those indeed of nine inches in the drill appeared to cover the ground as completely as any broad-cast crop usually does, so that Dr. Ander-

son, who had not been at Ducket's farm before, was obliged to go into the field and examine it, before he could believe, that the corn had been sown in drills. This appeared also on the farm of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, at Bushley-park, where, although both drilled and horse-hoed, at harvest it appeared as full as any broad-cast crop whatever. Indeed we never saw finer crops any where whatever than on this extensive farm of his Royal Highness, consisting of nearly five hundred acres, all in drilled and horse-hoed both wheat, barley, pease, beans, and oats. We therefore cannot hesitate to recommend by all means the drill husbandry to the farmers of Ireland, as the best means of obtaining the greatest crops, of keeping their lands free from weeds, and making their manure last for many years and give out its full effect in promoting the fertility of the soil. The only difficulty seems to be, that the machines for sowing and hoeing are too expensive for the common farmer, who is doubtful whether they will be of advantage. This year Mr. James Harvey brought Mr. Ducket's drill plough, sowing barrow, and horse-hoe, of which he gave notice to the farmers of Forth and Bargie that they might have the use of them, and that a farmer, whom Mr. Harvey had taken to England with him to learn the mode of using them, would also attend to shew them the manner of drilling and horse-

horse-hoeing with these implements, and has, still more to induce the farmers to adopt this mode of culture, offered the following premiums.

“ To the Farmers of the Baronies of Forth and Bargie.

Great loss having been sustained from the difficulty and expence of weeding corn, sown broad-cast, especially beans and wheat, where the ground lies hardening for many months; and great loss having been sustained from the want of winter and spring feed: now in order to encourage the growing of winter and spring feed, and to encourage the sowing of corn in drills (in ground subject to weeds) and horse-hoeing the same, I do hereby offer the following Premiums:

For the best acre of Beans sown in drills and horse-hoed, a piece of Plate of the value of	- - -	£.10 0 0
For the best acre of Wheat, Oats, or Barley, sown in drill and horse-hoed, a piece of Plate of the value of	- - -	10 0 0
For the best acre of Rape, after flax or early potatoes	- - -	5 0 0
For the best acre of Turnips, after flax or early potatoes	- - -	5 0 0

For the best acre of Rye, sown on stub-
ble in the autumn of 1804 5 0 0

For the best acre of Winter Vetches,
sown on stubble - - 5 0 0

The Premiums for the drilled crops to be adjudged
in the week before the harvest of 1804, and the pre-
miums for the winter and spring feed in the Decem-
ber following.

N. B. A drill plough, sowing barrow, and horse-
hoe may be seen at Bargy, intended for the use of
the candidates for the above premiums, who are re-
quested to send in their names immediately.

Bargy-Castle, 23rd

JAMES HARVEY."

December, 1803.

The same premiums he has continued for the
years 1805 and 1806.

Barley.

This is the principal crop throughout the whole of
this county, and bears the character here, which it
does in England, of being very uncertain. In mo-
derately good years, however, their crops are very
luxuriant, affording twelve, fifteen, and even twenty
barrels to the acre.

On

On the sea-coast they take barley after beans, which are richly manured with sea-weed. This year the barley failed every where, on account, as the farmers said, of the cold and wet spring. The same indeed was the case with the wheat, which did not produce half the crop, that is common in moderately good years. The great defect in their management of barley crops arises from their commonly in the internal parts of the country taking them after wheat, sometimes immediately, or with only an intermediate crop of oats. If instead of this they would take a crop of drilled turnips after their wheat, and then barley and clover, they would have a much more certain crop, and would keep their ground in not only good heart, but in an improving state; and, even if on their wheat stubbles they would sow tares, and, when they were fed off, sow turnips, and then barley, they would be able to keep their land in good heart without any additional manure after their marling, and, by taking barley and clover and afterwards wheat, they would have constantly good crops, and keep their ground in heart. Above all, if they would drill their barley and horse-hoe it, they would soon perceive the advantages of clean land and the saving of labour, and with the advantages they have of natural manures might keep their lands in perpetual fertility.

Beans.

Beans.

They sow beans on the ley often after marling. On the sea-shore they manure with sea-weed for their beans. Twelve barrels to an acre is a good crop, but they have frequently sixteen and sometimes twenty barrels to the acre. When they have a good crop of beans, they never fail to have a luxuriant crop of barley after them, if the season be moderately good. They often however fail, chiefly from their not weeding them, and never until this year sowing them in drills and horse-hoeing them. This has been introduced, in consequence of Mr. James Harvey having offered the premiums mentioned above, and with them having provided the implements by Mr. Duckett. Mr. Robert Murphy of Garahack, in the barony of Forth, obtained the premium for this year (1804); and certainly his crop of beans was extremely good and free from weeds, and, as Mr. Harvey continues the premium, it may be expected, that the practice will soon be established in that part of the county.* We did not find however, that any beans or any other pulse crops were sown in the other parts of the county. The kind of bean sown are the small horse-bean, and are generally exported to Liverpool for the West Indies. This crop has
however

* There are a good many candidates for the premiums this year (1805).

however sometimes, in years of scarcity, been found of great use for the subsistence of the people. In the scarce year 1783, the late Mr. Francis Harvey of Bargie Castle made it a practice to boil large quantities of beans, and give them to any of the poor, who chose to come for them: they brought always a dish with them, and generally got from a pint to a quart of the boiled beans with milk, which proved a great relief to many hundreds. And as beans will keep perfectly good for many years, either in the stack or in a granary, it might be an object worth consideration, how far it would be worth while to store them in public granaries, for the purpose of relieving the poor in times of great scarcity, which have unfortunately taken place so often of late years.

Tares, Rape, Turnips.

These crops are cultivated by several of the gentlemen farmers. We noticed a crop of drilled turnips and also tares, at Mr. James Hawlin's of at Mr. William Harvey's of Temple-hill, Mr. Grogan's of Johnstown, and Lord Courtown's. Mr. Tottenham of Ross has for several years past cultivated tares with great advantage; he had this year thirty acres under tares, which he made into hay. Counsellor Lyster of Bellmount on the Slaney cultivates tares, rape, turnip-cabbage, turnips, and, although on
a small

manure with sea-weed for their potatoes, by which they have good crops, but complain they are not so dry and mealy as those planted with dung. In the mountainous part they pare and burn their ground, and plant their potatoes with lime and the ashes, and get great crops. The industry of these poor mountaineers is very admirable; Captain James of Ballychristal informed us, that in his neighbourhood the poor people on the borders of Mount Leinster have a journey to go for their lime, which occupies them two days. With a poor wretched horse they go in this manner to the limekilns, bringing a barrel of lime at a time; and this journey they repeat forty times, in order to bring forty barrels for manuring an acre of this land.

Mr. Tighe in his Survey of Kilkenny, page 217. states, that some farmers have put lime on the sod in summer, and have left it spread there until Christmas, when it has been ploughed in; dung was added, when the potatoes were planted, and the produce was very great; with lime alone the quantity is not great, but the quality is good and dry. The advantage however would be very great, if lime was more commonly used with potatoes, and dung kept for meadows and corn crops; this would prevent, he adds, a vast extent of unnecessary fallow, which takes place for want of manure, and would save farmers

the expence of purchasing hay and meadowing at a high price, and drawing it from a distance.

In our Survey of the county of Wicklow we have remarked, that in that county it is also common to take potatoes with lime, and also with marle and limestone gravel. It is of great importance to find, that there are a variety of manures, that are fitted for the growth of this valuable plant. To which we ought to add, that the sea-sand, containing small comminuted shells, affords excellent potatoes, sea-weed being spread on the top, after the potatoes are put in and covered: in this way they are dry, and frequently very abundant.

The apple potatoe is the general kind planted, and are invaluable to the poor, as they will keep much longer than any others, by which they can have potatoes all the year round. The white-eye is planted also for early crops. The apple is better to be planted late, in the latter end of May or the beginning of June: in wet springs they are found to do better not to be planted until the middle or even the latter end of that month. This variety of potatoes has not been introduced into this county above twenty-five or thirty years. In the county of Kilkenny they were introduced by the late Sir William Fownes, between forty and fifty years ago. There is a potatoe cultivated near Duncannon, called Barber's wonders, which is very prolific. It is said, that in other districts

man is the kingdom indebted for all the advantages it has derived from it.

It has been maintained by some, and particularly by Mr. Young,* that the climate and soil of Ireland is peculiarly adapted to grass, and unfavourable to the ripening of grain, and that therefore all bounties, granted for the purpose of inducing the inhabitants to apply themselves to tillage instead of pasturage, are turning the industry of the country into a wrong channel. He asserts that the inland bounties, which at the time he wrote were granted for the transportation of grain and flour to Dublin, had diminished her pasturage exports, and introduced and extended a wretched and execrable tillage. This is exactly proceeding upon those principles, which we have touched upon in the former part of this Report, that of forming vague and pernicious systems of agriculture, taken from the practice of the mercantile systems and connected with large farms, of driving the people from the country into towns, and all the jargon connected with the systems of these superficial pretenders and coxcombs in agriculture.

It is impossible for any one to deny that, however deficient and unskilful the agriculture introduced may be, its very introduction is a circumstance of great advantage to the state, as it affords employment

* See Appendix to his Tour in Ireland.

ment and subsistence to the people in the first place, and not only does it afford this employment and subsistence, but it must be admitted that the labour, employed on a field of corn of even very moderate fertility, will afford some surplus after replacing the seed and labour; so even this imperfect tillage will afford and actually has afforded some profit at all times to the labourer, which has occasioned a gradual accumulation of capital, and enabled the farmers to extend their cultivation and manure their fields better. Mr. Young's balance, which he has taken great pains to exhibit, between agricultural and pasturage exports and imports, affords no ground for the opinion he wants to be adopted. The advantages, of the whole of the inhabitants of a country being employed in exercising their labour and ingenuity on the fertility of the soil, he leaves entirely out of the question. Dr. Anderson informed us, that he was the first person, who ever brought a sack of corn upon a cart to the market of Edinburgh; at that period, about fifty years ago, the farming in the Mid-Lothians, and the neighbouring counties, was as wretched as the agriculture in any part of Ireland at this day; and yet it is now equal to any thing in any part of Great-Britain, and in Mr. Marshall's opinion superior to most parts of England. Yet the climate of that part of Scotland is not better nor drier than the climate of the south-east of Ireland, as,
for

for instance, of this district. We remember, even thirty years ago, that in Perthshire there was the most miserable tillage practised, where now every little farmer of even ten or fifteen acres, nay even of four or five acres, has his clover or turnips in alternate rotation with his oats and barley. We remember when it was held, that wheat would not ripen in the north of Scotland, whereas of late years wheat is cultivated both in Aberdeenshire and in Inverness with great advantage. We have seen in the county of Antrim, within a few miles of the Giant's Causeway, as good a crop of wheat on Mr. Leslie's farm, as any we have seen in the bishoprick of Durham; and we have no doubt, notwithstanding Mr. Young's assertion, that wheat will ripen well in any part of Ireland. But, according to his doctrines, it would be absurd to encourage any cultivation, until you can introduce the very best, that is, the cultivation of which he approves, or agriculture according to his recipe. Some years ago a very wise statesman brought in a bill to the Irish House of Commons, prescribing the quantity of malt, hops, &c. that should be put to a barrel of beer, and inflicting severe penalties on those, who did not follow his prescription. However it was soon found, that this recipe for brewing produced very bad beer, and we fear, that a general prescription for the cultivation of land by any of these wise land-doctors, as they are called in Scotland, would

gent, we could not come at the quantity of acres under the different crops, or under pasture, with any sufficient accuracy. We were informed, however, at the custom-house, that the value of the grain exported from Wexford, in the year ending in April 1804, was 347,795*l.*; but if we consider, that great quantities of grain are also exported from Ross, great quantities sold at Waterford, much barley and malt also sent to the great distilleries in the county of Carlow, we may allow the disposable surplus to one half more, or 173,897*l.* making 521,692*l.* It was in the year 1785, that the efficient bounties on the exportation of corn, passed the preceding year, began to operate; and it appears, that the state of the corn-trade of Ireland for five years, previous to that period, was as follows.

Value of corn ground and un-	}	705,822	11	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
ground, exported from Lady-				
day 1780 to Lady-day 1785.				

Value of corn ground and un-	}	624,940	12	7
ground, imported during the				
same period,				

Balance in favour of export	£.80,881	18	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
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From the above it appears, that the value of the actual exports of grain from the port of Wexford only in one year, ending the fifth of April 1804, was
equal

equal to nearly one half of the whole quantity of corn exported from all Ireland, not in one year, but in five years; and that the surplus produce of this county is at present equal, very nearly, to all the corn imported for five years during the same period.

Course of Crops.

In the observations we have already made, some notice has been taken of the general mode of taking crops from the soil. In the baronies of Forth and Bargie, or rather a part of Bargie, we have noticed that they take alternate crops of beans and barley, manuring for the beans, and on the sea-coast also for the barley. They sometimes, however, take beans after potatoes, and for their crop of beans they do not manure. They also sometimes break up their leys with beans, but much more commonly with a white crop, either wheat or barley, and sometimes oats. No management can be so bad as that of breaking up ley land with a white crop. They should always be broke up with turnips, beans, or pease, rape, spring tares, or, if you find manure and markets will answer, with potatoes. After their wheat they used to take oats, but they now often take barley, nay sometimes they will take a second crop

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of

of wheat; this they allow to be bad management, but even those considered good farmers allow, that they may take oats or barley after wheat. It is, however, understood, that with the barley crop the ground is to be laid down with clover and grass seeds. This is undoubtedly better management than that, which takes place in the counties of Wicklow and Kilkenny, where it is very common to take as many white crops as the land will bear, and then turn it out to relieve itself and be covered by natural grasses, without sowing them. This practice of leaving *cashoers* or *scruthes* is now wholly exploded in the English baronies, and is scarcely to be met with in any part of the county, which is also a proof, that the culture of the soil is improving in some degree. Some agriculturists in England are, however, of opinion, that such a system of laying down to clover is apt to foul the ground with couch-grass and other noxious weeds. In a course of tillage they therefore alternate their white crops with pulse and root crops, sowing both their white and other crops in rows, and horse-hoeing the intervals. The Reverend Mr. Cooke on his experimental farm, near Horndean in Sussex, informed us he had abolished clover entirely from his farm, as well as pasture. He feeds his cattle in the house on straw, turnips, tares, potatoes, carrots, &c.; by which means he accumulates manure rapidly, and keeps

other districts, heavy, unmanageable, occasioning great labour to the horses and the ploughman. The Scotch plough, as improved by Small, with the bridle invented by the Rev. Mr. Campbell, which is now generally approved of in other parts of Ireland, was introduced into this county last year by Mr. James Howlin of in the barony of Forth. It cost him three guineas in Dublin; he has not, however, been able to get his people to use it, although there can be no doubt of its being by far the best adapted of any hitherto invented for this country.

Mr. James Harvey, of Bargie, has also introduced Mr. Duckett's drill-plough, sowing-barrow, and horse-hoes. Mr. William Harvey, of Temple-hill, exhibited at the meeting of the county Farming Society a small wheel-plough, very well adapted to the covering of barley.

We understand that the Farming Society of Ireland have laid the foundation of an extensive manufactory for making ploughs, and the most improved implements of husbandry, that have been found by experience to be well adapted to the soil and husbandry of this country, and are to supply the farmers with them at moderate prices, which will no doubt be attended with considerable advantage. We shall endeavour to give an accurate account of these implements, their price, and the mode, in which the
farmers

Rev. James Symes exhibited a very good bull of the Craven breed, imported by Mr. James Harvey; and Mr. William Harvey, of Temple-hill, another of the same breed. This breed is of the long-horned species, straight on the back, with a good quarter, when tried have been found good for milk, well up on the rib, and a clean head and neck; but they are inferior to the new Leicester breed in lightness of bone and some other points.

The principal properties of a perfect breed of black cattle for the purpose of the dairy, as well as for work and fattening, are generally allowed to be as follows, and which may be seen in the greatest perfection at Mr. Princep's dairy at Croxall, near Litchfield, Staffordshire: 1. The head small and clean, to lessen the quantity of offal: 2. The neck thin and clean, to lighten the fore-end, as well as to lessen the collar, and make it fit close and easy to the animal in work: 3. The carcase large and chest deep, and the bosom broad, with the ribs standing out full from the spine, to give strength of frame and constitution, and to admit of the intestines being lodged within the ribs: 4. The shoulders should be light of bone and rounded off at the lower point, that the collar may be easy, but broad to give strength, and well covered with flesh to give greater ease of draught, as well as to furnish a desired point in fattening cattle: 5. The back

ought

form of the turtle than any other animal; the pelt is thin, and the tail small; the wool is shorter than the Lincolnshire and other long wools in general, but much longer than the middle kind of wools; the ordinary length of staple five to seven inches, varying much in fineness and weight.

This breed surpasses every other in beauty of form, although we saw last year, at Lord Somerville's show in London, some South Downs breed by Mr. Ellman and some by the Duke of Bedford, very nearly equal to the best Leicesters in beauty of form. They are longer legged and lighter every way, their wool remarkably close and fine, and are in consequence well adapted to a mild country and a moist climate. The Rev. James Symes purchased some of the best of the Duke of Bedford's last year, and has brought them to his seat at Bally-Arthur on the borders of this county. This gentleman, who possesses considerable estates in this county, proposes to let his tenants have this breed at an easy rate, on condition of keeping them select. We understand from Mr. Symes, that the South Downs he has got are as quiet as the Leicesters. If this should continue, there can be no doubt of their being the most valuable stock for many parts of Ireland.

As all farmers in this county, even the smallest, keep a few sheep for their wool and even for their milk, they would be greatly benefited by getting into these

meal. With these the market of Wexford is most abundantly supplied and certainly not inferior to any town in England in this respect, and also remarkably cheap. This is one of the advantages derived from the great number of small farmers in this county. They also send great quantities of poultry to Dublin. A couple of crammed fowl, 2s. 2d. ; a turkey very fat, 2s. 8½d. ; a couple of turkeys alive full grown, 3s. 9½d. There is a fair at Michaelmas at Ballyhack, for poultry only, at which there are sold some thousands of all kinds and very cheap, that is, that in general they are on a par, and even, in some cases, cheaper than butcher's meat. This arises from the great number of small occupiers of land in this county, who can from the offals of their potatoes, with a little barley-meal, rear and feed poultry at a small expence ; for we have not found it to become the practice here, as in some parts of France, to sow maize and other grain for the sole purpose of feeding poultry. In several provinces of France the feeding of poultry is considered as a very important article in rural economy, and Dr. Smith says, a middling farmer there sometimes will have four hundred fowls in his yard ; and, as there is no great improbability, but that it may be found a profitable business in this country to rear and feed fowls for the Bristol, Liverpool, and West of England markets, it may be worth while to copy what Dr. Anderson says with regard

to the mode of fattening poultry in Languedoc, and the mode practised in Great Britain.

“The following method of fattening geese in Languedoc in France deserves to be generally known, as it will give some hints, that may be useful in fattening other animals.”

“After the bird has got into full flesh (i. e. by being well kept upon green food), it is necessary not to delay the fattening them too long, lest you lose the season entirely. About the end of December they enter into rut, after which they will not fatten at all. As soon as the frost has set in (usually towards the end of November), they are shut up to the number of ten or twelve (never more) in a dark still place, where they can neither see light, nor hear the cries of those, that are kept for laying. They remain in that prison till they have attained the greatest degree of fatness, and are ready for killing; that moment must be seized, otherwise they would very soon turn lean and at last die.”

“There are two ways of fattening them; the first, by giving them a trough filled with grain, which they call *sarde*,* so that they may eat whenever they please. The geese fattened on this grain are very delicate. Others put into the trough grain of maize boiled in water.

* “I do not know what kind of grain is denoted by *sarde*. It does not seem by what follows, that the effect of the operation, called *malting*, on grain intended to feed animals is there known.”

water. They take care to give them plenty of that food, and to keep the coop clean; at the end of two or three weeks the geese are all fully fattened; they are then taken out of the coop, and allowed to go at large into the water for twenty-four hours: without that precaution their flesh would have a disagreeable flavor."

"The above may be called the natural method of fattening, by enticing them to eat food enough of their own accord; the second may be called the artificial method, and is as follows."

The geese are put up in the same manner as before, and are crammed twice a day, by putting into their craw by means of a tinned tube, as much as it will hold of maize boiled in water. The tube is used, because, the bill of the goose being furnished with teeth, the person, who should attempt to perform that operation by hand, would soon have them scratched and torn to pieces. By these means the geese acquire a prodigious fatness, so that a pair sometimes weigh from fifty to sixty pounds. Their liver weighs from one pound to a pound and a half, is white and delicate, but has a slight bitterness, which the liver of a duck has not. The hearts are large like a small apple, and when, dressed on a gridiron, are excellent eating. The feet are boiled, after which they are fried the same as the tongue."

"Ducks are fattened in the same place as under."

When

the geese, have been plucked, they seem balls of fat, and none of their members are discernible."

There are some inferences not a little curious may be drawn from these facts, in regard to the fattening of other animals. Not only does it confirm the general position assumed in the text, that the more food an animal can be made to take in a given time, the quicker will it be fattened: but this rule seems to hold, when it is given even to hurtful quantity beyond what the animal would naturally have taken; and farther, that by certain modes of feeding when well understood, the size of particular parts of the body can be augmented at pleasure far beyond their natural proportions. Could the quantity of tallow in quadrupeds be augmented nearly in proportion to the liver in this case, it is evident the profit to the owner would be greatly augmented. The following mode of fattening poultry, as practised by an experienced person in Britain, approaches nearer to the natural method of feeding recommended in the text, and concurs in confirming the general doctrine.

Receipt for feeding Poultry.

Very short time is necessary; if a chicken is not fat in a week, it is distempered. Poultry should be

fattened

fattened in coops kept very clean; they should be furnished with gravel, but no water; their only food barley-meal mixed so thin with water as to serve them for drink. Their thirst makes them eat more than they would, in order to extract the water, that is amongst their food; this should not be put into troughs, but laid on a board, which should be clean-washed every time fresh food is put on it. It is foul and heated water, that is the sole cause of the pip. The preventive is obvious; see Dr. Anderson's Essays on agriculture and rural affairs, note to page 323 of the Dublin edition.

Bees,

Are a good deal attended to by the farmers of this county, scarcely any being without them, and most of them having meade in their houses, particularly in the English baronies. A good hive costs about half a guinea; a hive of honey may be bought for from 16s. to 20s. according to the weight. Honey sells at about 1s. 1d. per quart: a considerable quantity is exported from Wexford to Liverpool.

The Dublin Society sometime ago published rules respecting the care of bees in winter, advising particularly that they should at that time be put in a northerly

which, from its facility and success, may become perhaps more common ; he tied them up in a cloth, with a round board under the bottom, and hung them in the dark from the cellar-beam of a house in the beginning of October ; he relieved them on the first of April, and the five hives he treated in this manner were strong, and apparently in better health than those, that were treated in the usual way. At the bottom of one hive there were about one hundred dead, and not above thirty in each of the others ; a great many would have perished in the common way, and at any season this mortality in so great a number would be extremely small. As it entirely saves all the winter food, and preserves the insects also in the best manner, there can be no doubt of its being the safest and most profitable way of keeping bees.

The Abbé della Rocca, in his treatise, mentions this as a common practice in many parts of the Turkish empire ; and if it succeeded with him in an island of the Archipelago, it ought to answer better in a colder climate. Care must be taken to keep them remote from noise, and without light ; when, like ants in this country, and most other insects, they will become insensible during the cold weather, which appears their most natural state in all northern countries. See Mr. Tighe's Survey of Kilkenny, page 334. As this kind of economy would be of great advantage to the farmers of this county,

county, we cannot help transcribing the rest of this article from Mr. Tighe. "To destroy the bees in taking the honey seems to be a barbarous and awkward practice, when the structure of hives by Wildman and other persons has been so long known; when bees can be made with ease to fill several separate hives, of which the proprietor may take away such as he pleases. Wildman's hives are flat, seven inches in height, and ten in depth; in the upper row of straw are fastened small bars, to which the bees affix their combs; over this is placed a flat cover of straw; in a short time after the bees are hived, a second flat hive may be put under; and as soon as they appear to want room, which will be in less than three weeks, a third; a few days after, the top hive may be taken away, and will be found full of honey; in good seasons they will fill five of these hives, and the two last are sufficient for their own use, and more, if they are hung up in winter. The process is extremely simple, and certain of success with hives of a proper size; it has succeeded with me, even with a large common hive. When a hive appears full, it is not uncommon for the country people to put a rise under it for the bees to continue working, which is a step towards a better practice. In Wheeler's journey into Greece, a method is mentioned as followed, at this day, upon Hymettus, by which the combs are taken without destroying the bees;

bees; the hives are flat, broader above than at bottom; small sticks are fastened across the top; at proper times the cover is raised, and the sticks taken out with the combs attached; the bees are swept back into the hive, and a part of the combs left for their supply; in this practice they are enabled to encrease the number of hives by removing part of the combs, together with the bees, into new ones, and thus dividing a hive into two or more; in which case care must be taken to remove a comb having the cell of a young queen bee, which is easily distinguished."

"All early flowering plants are particularly favourable to bees; M. Conterdi, and other French authors have specified the most useful plants; among them they reckon the almond, the cherry, the nut, the apple; from the poplar, the aspin, and the sallow, the bees obtain, early in the season, a resin of a brown colour, with which they stop the chinks of the hives before they begin to work; the lime and the broom afford great quantities of honey; as also all the spiraeas, borage, cabbages, and most cruciform flowers; echium, cerinthe, beans, and many papilionaceous plants; also raspberry, flax, lucerne, clover, campanulas, traveller's joy." White mustard we have known sown on purpose.

"It is calculated in the Bedfordshire survey, p. 54, that every square mile in Great-Britain would easily produce,

produce, in bees wax and honey, on an average 100l. in value, allowing for the decrease of price in consequence of the extent of produce."

Natural Grasses.

In some parts of this county the natural grasses are very luxuriant, particularly in the district called the Hook. The natural grasses on the eastern coast seem also very good. In the internal parts on the cold clay soils they are thin and of little value. At Bargie castle we found all the different Festucas and Poas, and abundance of the Achillea millefolium, the yarrow, so much celebrated by Dr. Anderson. It is, however, upon artificial grasses that the farmers depend chiefly in this county.

Artificial Grasses.

They only make use of in general the clover. We did not see any lucerne in the county.

Mode

Mode of Hay-making.

In this the common farmers are guilty of the same faults we noticed in the county of Wicklow, of bleaching their hay too much. We beg to refer to that Survey for the mode practised in England, of making their hay.

Dairies, and their Produce.

This year a farmer informed us, that he made 120l. of a dairy of 21 cows; but the usual price, at which they let their dairy cows, is from five pounds to five guineas each cow. Their dairies are numerous in several parts of the county, and we are informed there are about 9000 tubs of butter exported annually from Wexford. The dairies, in general, are managed in a very slovenly dirty manner, and they are at very little pains in selecting the breeds of their dairy stock. Mr. Tighe, in his Statistical Survey of Kilkenny, has given some excellent rules for the management of dairies, to which we beg to refer.

Prices

Prices of Hides, Tallow, Wool, and quantity sold.

The prices of these in this county are not easily ascertained, but are much the same as those of Waterford. We could not come at the quantity of wool sold; much of it is sent to Waterford; the price varies according to the fineness, from 16s. to 19s. 6d. this year. Some very fine mountain sheep wool as high, we were told, as 30s. per stone. South Down wool, grown in the neighbourhood of this county, brought 2s. 10d. per pound in Dublin.

Size of Farms.

A Farm of 100 acres is considered a large farm. The run from 20 to 60 acres to the occupying tenant. On several large estates the pernicious practice of letting large tracts to middle-men takes place, but these let their lands to occupying tenants, from whom they demand an exorbitant rent. The Marquis of Ely has given an admirable example on his estate of doing away the middle-men, and letting his lands to the immediate occupiers, and he has consequently on his estate a very respectable tenantry, industrious, and attached to him. In some

other parts of the county, in consequence of letting their lands to these land-jobbers, the country has been depopulated, as evidently appears from large tracts, particularly in the eastern district, bearing the marks of having been formerly in tillage, and now deserted. To other circumstances of bad policy of letting lands to middle-men, Mr. Tighe adds with great truth, that the middle-men always promise more and pay less than other men.

Farm Houses and Offices.

They are built by the tenants and repaired by them. The landholders do nothing either towards building or keeping them in repair.

Nature of Tenures, State of Leases, and general Clauses therein, Taxes, or cesses, paid by Tenants.

On some estates it is the custom to let for a term of years, but generally for lives, or a term of years—three lives or 31 years—sometimes two lives or 31 years. The Reverend James Symes covenants with all his tenants, that they shall reside on their farms, and not sub-set above a certain quantity to labourers or cottiers, which seems to be an excellent provision.

Mr.

Mr. Tighe suggests, that the safest way to prevent sub-division and sub-setting is by letting at a *nominal rent*, inclusive of the penalty, and allowing an abatement on condition of not sub-setting.

The rents of late have been much encreased, and certainly the great advance in the price of things justifies a considerable encrease of rent. The anxiety, however, of every little farmer to obtain more land induces them often to bid any price to obtain it, and landlords too often justify the practice of taking exorbitant rents by encouraging this competition. Lands, that were twenty-five years ago let for a guinea an acre, are now let for two guineas, and fifty shillings; within that period the rent is almost every where doubled.

General Size of Fields and Enclosures.

In general the fields and enclosures are small; five, ten, and very seldom twenty acres in a field. This is naturally directed by the size of the farm, and the quantity of arable and pasture land.

*Nature of Fences, Mode of Hedge-rows, and keeping
of Hedges.*

The fences in the English baronies are in general good and well kept, consisting of mounds of earth and sods planted with furze on the sides and top, which affords excellent shelter for cattle, and is extremely useful as fuel; they also form a most impenetrable fence. There is a fence of this kind at Bargie Castle, which has been made 24 years, and is one of the most complete we have ever seen; there is a hedge of quicks at the top, which grow well as both an additional shelter and an ornament. In those parts of the county, where they have plenty of turf for fuel, they are not so careful in making these excellent kind of fences. The fences there appear ragged and miserable.

Mode of Draining.

Very little can be said on this subject, which is very much neglected. At Carraghmore, a farm of Thomas Cards, Esq. there is a fine example of draining with great spirit and judgment. The Rev.
William

William Glascott, at Pilt, has also taken much pains in draining, and carried it into effect with much judgment.

William Glasscott, at Fille, has also taken much pains in draining, and carried it into effect with much judgment.

APPENDIX.

The Author of this Report having but slightly touched on the language of the old English colony of the Barony of Forth, we have added a more particular account of it, given by General Vallancey, from the second Volume of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, as an Appendix.

THE baronies of Bargie and Forth are situated at the southern extremity of the county of Wexford, and, together, contain about sixty square Irish miles. They lie due east from Cardiganshire, in Wales; the shortness of the passage caused a frequent intercourse between the Irish and the Britons, from the earliest account of their history.

In the year 1167, Dermot, king of Leinster, was a powerful prince; the errors of his civil government, the oppression of his subjects, and the tyranny he exercised over his nobility, caused a total defection in them and the people. His kinsmen, friends, servants and followers, had all been prevailed on to forsake him.

In 1168 the distressed king repaired to England, to solicit the assistance of king Henry ; telling him he was become an exile by the treachery of his vassals, and beseeching him to give him aid, whereby he might be restored to his inheritance, which if it should please him to grant, he would acknowledge him to be his lord, and serve him during his life.

King Henry, moved with compassion, promised him aid, and desired him to remain at Bristol until he should hear further from him. Dermot, after staying there one month, and hearing nothing from the king, weary of delay, applied to Richard Earl of Strigul, commonly called Strongbow, promising that, if he would assist him, he would give him his daughter to wife, and with her the whole kingdom of Leinster. The Earl excused himself, unless King Henry would give his consent.

In the mean time Dermot applied to the princes of Wales, and Richard Fitz-Godobert accompanied him, but with so small a body of men, they were of no use, and they soon returned home.

Dermot finding his subjects still held out against him caused proclamation to be made in Wales, offering large recompense in lands, money, and cattle, to such as would give him aid. Immediately men of all sorts, and from divers places, prepared themselves to embark for Ireland, under the command of Fitz-Stephen, who had lately been enlarged from
prison

prison by the mediation of Dermod with Rice, a king in Wales. This little army consisted of about three hundred horsemen and foot.

With this small body Dermod did wonders, and, being grown proud with victory, gave great discontent to the English, many of whom returned home. But in the year following (1169) Earl Richard sent Raymond Le Gross to Dermod's assistance, with a small suite, promising to follow with a considerable army. Accordingly, in 1170, the Earl arrived at Waterford with sixteen hundred soldiers.

This considerable reinforcement enabled Dermod not only to suppress his rebellious subjects, but also to make war on the neighbouring princes. Peace being once restored, Dermod made good his promises, and the part of the country we are now describing was parcelled out to the British soldiers, who have remained in quiet possession of their achievements unto this day.

This colony have preserved their ancient manners, customs, and language; and fully occupying every inch of ground, the natives could never obtain a re-establishment therein. As population encreased, some of the English have been obliged to remove into the neighbouring baronies within these fifty years, and, by an intercourse with the Irish, the language of these emigrants became corrupted, and these, by their connections with their kindred remaining

maining in the baronies of Bargie and Forth, have in some measure introduced this corrupted dialect there. The town of Wexford is the market, to which this colony resorted to dispose of the produce of their farms, and in this market all things are bought and sold in the modern English dialect ; this also is another cause of the decline of the language of the colonists, but not one word of Irish is understood or spoken in these two baronies ; still they preserve many words and phrases of their original language, and some original songs, which, having been committed to writing, will exist as long as the people.

Were there no historical documents to ascertain the arrival and establishment of this colony, the language spoken by them would be a sufficient testimony. “ Language,” says Dr. Johnson, “ is the pedigree of “ nations ; there is no tracing the connections of “ ancient nations but by language.*” And the learned Dr. Priestley informs us, “ that the language of a “ people is a great guide to an historian, both *in* “ *tracing their origin*, and in discovering the state of “ many other important circumstances belonging to “ them. Of all customs and habits (adds the Doctor) “ that of speech, being the most frequently exercised, “ is the most confirmed, and least liable to change. “ Colonies, therefore, will always speak the language “ of their mother country, unless some event produce

* Boswell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides.

“ duce a freer intercourse with people, who speak
 “ another language ; and even the *proportion* of that
 “ foreign intercourse may in some measure be esti-
 “ mated by the *degree* of corruption of the lan-
 “ guage.”* To these authorities we will add a few
 more of equal weight : “ *Cognitio linguarum gen-*
 “ *tium ortum & prosapiam docet, indicatque, ut et*
 “ *solum et genus vitæ mutaverint monstrat.*”† This
 author goes so far as to say, that language is to be
 preferred even to the annals of remote times, to
 prove the origin of a people, particularly of an emi-
 grating people, such as the Scythian ancestors of the
 Irish are known to have been : “ *Vestigia migratio-*
 “ *num gentium quibuslibet fastis certius prodit,*” or,
 as he more strongly expresses it in his own language,
 “ *som nationers flyttoringar är, ofta lemnar säkrare*
 “ *underrättelser, än alla sagor och historier.*” “ *Lin-*
 “ *guarum cognatio cognationis gentium præcipuum*
 “ *certissimumque argumentum est.*”‡

On these great authorities we rest, to prove that
 the ancient history of the primitive inhabitants of this
 island is founded in truth ; for, if they had not had an
 intercourse in former days with the Phœnicians,
 Egyptians, and Persians, how is it possible so many
 hundreds of words, so many idioms of speech, so

s 2

many

* Lectures on History and General Policy, Part. ii. Lect. viii.

† The very learned Ihre in his *Lexicon Lapponicum*, Pref. p. xxxiii.

‡ Sheringham.

many technical terms in the arts of those ages, could have been introduced into the old Irish dialect? terms not to be met with in the dialect of any other northern or western nation. What people, the Egyptians and Irish excepted, named the harp or music *ouini*; Irish, *Aine*? i. e. *Oirfideadh*, i. e. music, a musical instrument; *oirphideadh* or *oirfideadh* expresses the action of playing. What people in the world, the Orientalists and the Irish excepted, call the copy of a book the *son of a book*, and echo the *daughter of a voice*? With what northern nation, the Irish excepted, can the oriental names of the tools and implements of the stone-cutter, the ship-builder, the weaver, be found?

To return to our colonists. When we were first acquainted with this colony, a few of both sexes wore the ancient dress: that of the man was a short coat, waistcoat, and trunk breeches, with a round hat and narrow brim; that of the woman was a short jacket, a petticoat bordered at bottom with one, two, or three rows of ribband or tape of a different colour. We have seen one, whose jacket was of superfine woollen cloth, of a dark brown colour, edged with a narrow silver lace. The dress of the head was a kircher.

The names of the old colonists are Hore, Cod, Stafford, Whitty, Rossiter, Sinnot, Murphy, Stephen, Quiney, &c. The gentlemen, who now inhabit the country are mostly descended from the officers and
soldiers

soldiers of Cromwell's and King William's army, viz. Hervey, Nun, Edwards, Hughes, Palliser, &c.

The people of these baronies live well, are industrious, cleanly, and of good morals; the poorest farmer eats meat twice a week, and the table of the wealthy farmer is daily covered with beef, mutton, or fowl. The beverage is home-brewed ale and beer, of an excellent flavour and colour. The houses of the poorest are well built and well thatched; all have out-offices for cattle, fowls, carts, or cars. The people are well clothed, are strong and laborious. The women do all manner of rustic work, ploughing excepted; they receive equal wages with the men.

In this delightful spot the greatest harmony subsists between the landlord and the farmer; and it is common to meet the tenant at the landlord's table. Such is their aversion to idleness, that if a beggar is met in these baronies, he is immediately handed from house to house until he is out of the barony.

The professed religion here is the Roman Catholic; there are about one hundred to one Protestant.

Marriage is solemnized much in the same manner as with the Irish. The relations and friends bring a profusion of viands of all kinds, and feasting and dancing continues all the night; the bride sits veiled at the head of the table, unless called out to dance, when the chair is filled by one of the bride-maids. At every marriage an apple is cut into small pieces,
and

thrown among the crowd ; a custom they brought from England, but the origin of it had not descended with it.

The produce of the soil in these baronies is great ; the whole is under tillage, and near the sea-shore they manure with the sea-weed twice a year, and in the memory of the oldest man the ground has never been fallowed, but a plentiful crop obtained every year. The parish of Carne contains five hundred acres, all or mostly under tillage ; this parish pays 100*l.* a year for tithes to the rector. The church-land of Carne contains sixty acres, of which forty are ploughed, and pays to the rector 14*l.* 14*s.* and to the landlord 90*l.* a year.

Fuel is scarce in this district ; the chief firing is furze, planted on the tops of all the dikes ; these are cut and dried, and bring a good return. Along the coast there has formerly been a bog or turbary, which has been encroached on by the sea, so much that now it is covered with sand, and that at high water, with many feet of the watery element. The great expence of cutting and drying this turf renders this kind of fuel too dear for the common people. In this turbary, many feet under the sea at high water, trees are daily found, and some dug up ; they consist chiefly of oak, fir, and hazle.

*Vocabulary of the Language of the Barony of Forth
and Bargie.*

A

	<i>buthther</i> , butter.
	<i>bouchure</i> , a butcher
<i>Alogke</i> , below.	<i>baree</i> , the goal at the game of ball or hurly.
<i>ammache</i> , a dwarf.	<i>bibbern</i> , trembling, fearful.
<i>arkagh</i> , eager.	<i>blackeen</i> , bawling.
<i>amize</i> , amazed.	<i>blayeen</i> , shouting.
<i>aim</i> , design.	<i>boust</i> , boast.
<i>amezill</i> , themselves.	<i>bra</i> , brave.
<i>arich</i> , the morning.	

B

	<i>bathes</i> , the goal at the game
B	at ball.
	<i>barnaugh</i> , a limpit, a wilk
<i>bodee</i> ,	} the body. A. S.
<i>bothige</i> ,	
<i>buye</i> , a boy.	(or shell-fish) which adheres to the rocks so as to require a strong blow to disengage it.
<i>bash</i> , the palm of the hand.	<i>brough</i> , to break.
<i>bellee</i> , the belly.	<i>boththone</i> , a button.
<i>bane</i> , a bone. A. S. <i>ban</i> .	<i>brower</i> , a brother.
<i>blooed</i> , blood.	<i>brekvast</i> , breakfast.
<i>brian</i> , the brain.	
<i>blanthur</i> , the bladder.	C

C

<i>brazon</i> , bold.	
<i>breed</i> , bread.	<i>co</i> , quoth, sayeth.
<i>barcoon</i> , bacon.	<i>coshes</i> , conscience.
	<i>clugercheen</i> .

clugercheen, a flock, a clutch, a crowd. *coolane*, the hinder part of the head.

cowlee-man, the keeper of the goal at the game of ball. *cortere*, a quarter, as *arraugh cortere*, spring. *zimmer cortere*, summer.

chote, to know ; *chote well*, to know well, to think, suspect. *harrest cortere*, autumn. *wonter cortere*, winter. *cole*, cold.

cornee, peevish. *crooken*, crossness, peevishness. *curcagh*, snappish.

corkite, tumbling or thrusting one another down, wrestling.

comman, the bat or hurling club. *dellen*, to dig. *dearnt*, to look, to behold, to look up.

coureate, carrots. *d'off*, to strip, to put off. *coolours*, pigeons. *Angl.* *draught*, a drawing stroke with a weapon. *Sax. culfre*, a pigeon ; *culufre*, idem.

callef, a calf. *drowe*, to throw or cast. *doneb*, a dunce, blockhead.

caule, a horse. *deight*, to put.

cozeens, kinsfolks. *dap*, a touch.

crwest, a crust. *durk*, dark.

coshur, a feast. *dunder*, thunder (Danish).

cown, a comb. *die*, the day.

comree, trust, confidence. *daneen*, the dawn.

choule, the cheek ; *recte* *choule*, i. e. the jole. *Mondei.*

Tusedei.

<i>Tusedei.</i>	<i>eord, eorth, earth.</i> A. S.
<i>Wennesdei.</i>	<i>eord.</i>
<i>Thorsdei.</i>	<i>emothee, an emmet, ant, or</i>
<i>Vridei.</i>	<i>pismire.</i>
<i>Zathardei.</i>	
<i>Zindei.</i>	F

Dei oaskean, Ash Wed-
nesday.

<i>dreade, thread (Danish).</i>	<i>fause, the face; the fea-</i>
<i>denear, dinner.</i>	<i>tures of the face, lickeen.</i>
<i>doough, dough.</i>	A. S. <i>wlita, anwlita, the</i>
<i>drish, a thrush (bird).</i>	<i>face, the features.</i>
<i>drostal, a blackbird.</i>	A. S. <i>neb, the face.</i>

feelen, feeling.

E.

	<i>fartoo, ailing.</i>
	<i>f'ad, for what?</i>
<i>ee, the (article).</i>	<i>fan, when.</i>
<i>errone, errand.</i>	<i>fousteen, confused, tremb-</i>
<i>earchee, every.</i>	<i>ling.</i>
<i>ete, point, quarter.</i>	<i>fade, what.</i>
<i>ein, eyes.</i>	G.

egast, fear; egasted, fright-
ened.

<i>iee, iec, the eye.</i> A. S.	<i>gridane, sorrow.</i>
<i>eage.</i>	<i>gandet, wonder'd.</i>
<i>eene, the end.</i>	<i>gazb, dust, breath, fume.</i>
<i>eatheit, evening.</i>	<i>There's no gasb in him,</i>
<i>eart, eard, earth.</i>	<i>i. e. he is dead.</i>
	<i>gentrize, gentry.</i>

T

glade,

<i>glade</i> , sun-set.	<i>Goe to hote</i> , heat.
<i>glade</i> , i. e. <i>Zin zettene</i> , sun-setting.	<i>holgave</i> , Shrove-Tuesday. A. S. <i>halga</i> , holy; <i>hal-</i> <i>gan fæsten</i> , Lent.
<i>gabble</i> , talk, prattling.	<i>haade</i> , the head.
<i>gay</i> , fair, calm.	<i>helboghe</i> , the elbow. A. S.
<i>gubbach</i> , cabbage.	<i>elboga</i> .
<i>gearte</i> , a she-goat; <i>puck-</i> <i>ane</i> , a he-goat.	<i>hone</i> , the hand; <i>riaught</i>
<i>garrane</i> , a gelding.	<i>hone</i> , the right hand.
<i>granouge</i> , a hedge-hog.	<i>hip</i> , the thigh. A. S. <i>theoh</i> .
<i>geinuare</i> , a joiner, a car- penter.	<i>heal</i> , health.
<i>gurl</i> , a child; <i>gurlerish</i> , childhood.	<i>herieen</i> , hearing.
<i>gurtear</i> , a garter, bandage.	<i>hornta</i> , horned; <i>hornta</i> <i>bast</i> , a horned beast.
<i>garr</i> , anger.	<i>hiver</i> , a heifer.
<i>grizee</i> , ugly.	<i>harpleat</i> , a snipe.
<i>gent</i> , a joint.	<i>hereen</i> , a herring.
<i>gue</i> , dew.	<i>heiftem</i> , weight, burthen.
<i>gast</i> , a sprite. A. S. <i>gast</i> .	<i>har-nothes</i> , pig-nuts.
<i>garson</i> , a youth.	<i>hachee</i> , cross, ill-tempered.
	<i>hey</i> , an inclosure; <i>chourch-</i> <i>hey</i> , church-yard.
	<i>hole</i> , buried.
	<i>hap</i> , chance.
<i>heoven</i> , heaven.	<i>halluf</i> , half; <i>halluf-mona</i> , half-moon.
<i>helle</i> , hell. A. S. <i>helle</i> .	

H:

I.

joud, crowd; *joud an moud*, crowds and throngs of people.

K.

keiless, skittles, nine-pins.

kink, to kick.

keilt, to roll on the ground.

knaggee, cross, ill-tempered, peevish.

kewe, a shove, a thrust.

kimlere, a fumbler, awkward.

keine, cows.

knaghane, an ant or pismire hill, a little hill.

L.

leigheen, laughing.

llean, mischief.

lluskes, flocks.

leigh, idle; *leigh out ee dei*, idle out the day.

loothed, sheltered.

lournagh, melancholy.

letch, small-beer; *ty o'*

letch, a drink of small beer.

lug, hollow.

lerock, a lark.

lowem, a lamb.

leioon, a lion.

lawveen, leaven.

laus, lace.

lethel little; *lethel vinger*, the little finger.

ligt, light.

lappeen, a plover.

lous, open.

lickeen, the features. A. S.

wlita, *anwlita*, the face.

lone, land; *Englone*, England; *Erelone*, Ireland.

lug, a hollow.

M.

methel, middle.

man, a man; *yolarw man*, an old man; *man*, a husband.

mawen, a woman ; *yoella* *neapess*, parsnips.

mawen, an old woman, *nipore*, neighbour.

a wife. *neal*, a needle.

mide, a maid. *neeght*, night.

moweth, the mouth. *noughel*, a knuckle.

marrough, marrow. *naatur*, nature.

met, food.

mothoon, mutton.

moothar, mother.

mastrace, mistress.

milleare, a millar.

magetty-pie, a magpie.

mistern, dazzled.

muzlere, worthless.

moud, crowd, throng.

mot, asking.

mot, but.

mope, astonished, a fool.

mothee, a little hill.

milagh, trefoil, clover.

mell, meal, flour.

mire, surprize, in amazement.

N.

nouth, knoweth.

nate, *anate*, prepared.

nize, the nose ; *niztrols*,
nostrils.

O

oree, one another.

P.

poul, the crown of the
head.

pethy, pity.

pooke, pocket.

puckane, a he-goat.

pether, pewter.

pit, put.

poustee, power.

pomell, a fool.

piz, pease ; *piz porachis*,
pease porridge.

paug-mele, feast of har-
vest-home.

paug, the harvest ; *mele* or
mael, a feast.

R.

R.

rishp, a stroke ; A. S. *rese*.*rapple*, to rattle.*rushsheen*, afternoon's luncheon.*rub*, a rib.*riaught*, right ; *riaught**hone*, right hand ; *ri-**aught earne*, right arm.

S.

sankts, the saints.*skee*, the sky.*steorr*, a star ; A. S. *steorra*.*sneew*, snow.*starm*, a storm.*smill*, the smell.*shamefacu*, bashful.*stuckeens*, stockings.*shoone*, shoes.*snisheen*, snuff.*seppear*, supper.*skir*, to rise in the air.*shuller*, shoulder.*snite*, to appear, to shew
one's self.*stone*, to stand.*shimmereen*, glittering.*scoth*, a shirt.*scudden*, rubbing the back.*stouk*, a fool.*smort*, smothered.*stell*, the handle of a thing.

T.

teap, tossing and tumbling
one another about.*troll*, to roll.*'twish*, between, betwixt.*teight*, taught.*tarvizeen*, tormenting.*titch*, a kid.*ty*, a drink, see *letch*.*tawest*, taste.*thouum*, the thumb, A. S.*thuma*.

V.

vier, the fire, A. S. *fir*.*Belgis Vier*.*vaaper*, vapour.*vrast*, frost.*vorreate*, the forehead.*voote*, the foot.*vlesh*, flesh ; *byiltta vlesh*,
boiled meat.*vat*, fat.*vice*,

vice, voice.

volleat, a handkerchief.

vurst, first.

vier, a weazel.

vream, from ; *vreem*, idem.

vappereen, bragging, boasting.

valler, more.

vezzeen, driving or striking a ball hard.

vengem, spite, malice.

vell, fell ; *vall*, to fall.

vlee, to fly.

valler, more, longer (in time).

W.

wafur, uneasy.

wourlok, to tremble.

wedeen, a wedding.

wather, water.

woul, to wish.

witheen, the looks, the countenance or features.

whating, sneezing.

weepeen, weeping.

wraste, the wrist.

wik, a week.

weend, the wind ; *East*

weend, *Westan weend*,

South weend, *Nordh weend*.

wazcoote, a waistcoat.

Y.

yerstei, yesterday ; *ear*

yerstei, the day before yesterday.

yolaw, old m ; *yoella*, old f.

yowe, an ewe.

yalpen, spewing.

y'oure, give over, cease.

ye, give ; *yate*, give.

yith, if.

Z.

zitch, such.

zin, the sun ; *zin zettene*, or, go to glade, sun-setting.

zichel, such.

zey-saw, *ze*, to see.

zar, to serve.

zill, self ; *theezill*, thyself.

zed, stewed ; *zed-mett*, stewed meat.

zalt, salt.

zeide, the side.

zongh, a sigh.

I shall

I shall here subjoin

AN OLD SONG,

in the dialect of these baronies, which has been handed down by tradition from the arrival of the colony in Ireland. Subject, the game at ball called Camánn or Hurly. Scene, the commons in the Barony of Forth. Time, a church holy-day. *Walter* relates how his son *Thomas* lost the game, by aiming a strong blow at the ball, and, missing it, broke his bat against a pismire hill.

A YOLA

A YOLA SONG. *Tune—Collin and Phebe.*

FADE teil thee zo lournagh, co Jone, zo knaggee.
 Th' weithest all curcagh, wafur, an cornee.
 Lidge w'ous ana milagh, tis gay an louthee,
 Huck nigher, y'art scudden, fartoo zo hachee.

Well, gosp, ch'hull be zeid, mot thee fartoo, an fa'de
 Ha deight ouz var gabble, tell ee Zin go t'glade
 Ch'am a stouk, an a donel; wou'll leigh out ee dey
 Th' valler w'speen here, th' lass i Chourch-hey.

Yerstey w'had a baree, gist ing our hone
 Are gentrize ware bibbern, amezill, cou no stone.
 Yith Muzlere had ba hole, t'was me Tommeen,
 At by mizluck was i pit t'drive in,

Joud an moud, vrem earchee ete, was i Lough
 Zitch vaperren, an shimmereen, fan ee daff i tha'r scoth
 Zitch blakeen, an blayeen, fan ee ball was ee drowe
 Chote well ar aim was t'yie ouz n'eer a blowe.

Mot w'all 'ar boust, hi soon was ee teight
 At 'ar errone was var ameing 'ar 'ngish i height
 Zitch vezzen, tarvizzen 'till than w'ne'er zey
 Nore zichel, n'eer well nowe nore n'eer mey.

Many

AN OLD SONG.

What ails you so melancholy, quoth John, so cross ?
 You seem all snappish, uneasy and fretful :
 Lie with us on the clover, 'tis fair and sheltered ;
 Come nearer, you're rubbing your back, why so ill tem-
 pered ?

Well, gossip, it shall be told, you ask what ails me, and
 for what ;
 You have put us in talk, 'till the sun goes to set,
 I'm a fool and a dunce ; we'll idle out the day ;
 The more we spend here, the less in the church-yard.

Yesterday we had a gaol just in our hand,
 Their gentry were quaking, themselves could not stand.
 If good for little had been buried, it had been my Tommy.
 Who by misluck was placed to drive in.

Throngs and crowds from each quarter of the Lough [of
Ballymacushin near the commons ;]
 Such vapouring and glittering, when stript in their shirts.
 Such bawling and shouting, when the ball was thrown ;
 I saw their intent was to give us neer a stroke.

But with all their bravado they were soon taught
 That their errand was aiming to bring anguish upon 'em.
 Such driving and struggling 'till then we ne'er saw,
 Nor such never will, no, nor never may.

Many a bra draught, by Tommeen was ee mate,
 Th' cowlee-man fausteen; zey well 'twas a nate
 Yith w'had any luck our name wou'd b' zung
 Vreem ee *Choure* here aloghe up to *Cargun*.

Th' heiftem o' pley, vell all ing to lug,
 An there w' had Treblere and sturdy Cournug.
 Th' commanes t'rapple, th' ball skir an vlee,
 Our een would b' mistern t' dearnt up ee skee.

Than came ee shullereen i teap an corkite,
 Hi kinket an keilt i vewe ame t'wode snite;
 Zim dellen harnoths, w'are nize i reed cley
 More trollen, an yalpen an moulten away.

Na nowe or neveir w' cry't t' Tommeen,
 Fan Cournug yate a rishp, an Treblere pit w'eeme.
 A clugercheen gother, all ing pile an in heep
 Wourlok'd anan 'oree, lick lluskes o' sheep.

T' brek up ee bathes, h' had na ponstee,
 Tommeen was lous, an zo was ee baree;
 Oure hart cam' t' our mouth, an zo w' all i green
 Th' hap an ee ferde an ee crie was Tommeen.

Up came ee ball, an a dap or a kewe
 Wou'd zar, mot all arkagh var ee barnaugh-blowe
 W' vengem too hard, he zunk ee commane
 An brough et i still ing a emothee knaghane.

Th'

Many a brave stroke by Tommy was made,
 The goal-keeper trembling, said well 'twas intended them.
 If you had any luck our name would have been sung
 From the Choure here below up to Cargun. [*two distant
 points of the Barony.*]

The weight of the play fell into the hollow,
 And there we had Treblere and sturdy Cournug. [*two
 famous players.*]

The ball-clubs they rattled, the ball rose and flew;
 Our eyes would be dazzled to look up to the sky.

Then came the shouldering, tossing, and tumbling;
 They kicked and rolled the few that appeared.
 Some digging earth-nuts with their noses in red clay,
 More rolling and spewing and pining away.

Nay, now or never we cry'd to Tommy,
 When Cournug gave a stroke, and Treblere put with him;
 [*helped.*]

A crowd gathered up, all in pile and heap
 Tumbled on one-another like flocks of sheep.

To break up the goal they had not power,
 Tommy was open, and so was the goal.
 Our hearts came to our mouth, and so did all in the green,
 The chance and the fear and the cry was Tommeen.

Up came the ball, and a tap or a shove
 Would serve; but all eager for the barnagh stroke
 With venom too hard, he sunk his bat-club or bat,
 And broke the handle, in an emmot [*pismire*] hill.

Th' ball want a cowlee, th' gazb mate all rize
 Like a mope an a mele; he gatz ing a mire.
 Than stalket, an gandelt, w'ie o! an gridane
 Our joys all ee smort, ing a emothee knaghane.

Ha ho! be me coshes, th'ast ee pait it, co Jone
 You're w' thee crookeen, an ye me thee hone.
 He it nouth fade t'zey, llean vetch ee man,
 Twish thee an Tommeen, an ee emothee knaghane.
 Come w' ous gosp Learry, theezil and Melchere;
 Outh o'me hone ch'ull no part wi' Wathere.
 Jowane got leigheen, she pleast ame all, fowe—
 Sh' ya ame zim to doone, as w' be doone nowe:
 Zo bless all oure friends, an God zpeed ee plowe.

The ball o'ershot the goal, the dust rose all about
Like a fool in a mill, he looked in amazement;
Then stalked and wondered, with Oh! and with grief
Our joys are all smothered in a pismire hill.

Hey-ho! by my conscience, you have paid it, quoth
John,
Give o'er your crossness, and give me your hand.
He that knows what to say, mischief fetch the man,
Betwixt you and Tommy and the pismire hill.

Come with us, gossip Larry, yourself and Miles;
Out of my hand I'll not part with Walter.
Joan set them a laughing, she pleased them all, how—
She gave them some to do, as we are doing now: [*Drinking*]
So bless all our friends, and God speed the plough.

FINIS.

APPENDIX

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The ball o'er shot the goal, the shot rose all about
 I like a fool in a mill, he looked in amazement;
 Then stalked and wondered, with Oh! and with grief
 Our joys are all smothered in a pensive hill.

Hey-ho! by my conscience, you have paid it quite
 John.

Give over your crowns, and give me your hand,
 He that knows what to say, tischieft fetch the man,
 Betwixt you and Tommy and the pensive hill.

Come with us, George, Larry, Jemmy and Miles,
 Out of my hand I'll not part with Walter.
 Joan set them a laughing, she pleased them all now,
 She gave them some to do, as we are doing now: [Drinking]
 So bless all our friends, and God speed the plough.

FINIS

Fraser, Robert

Statistical Survey of the County of Wexford

Dublin 1807

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